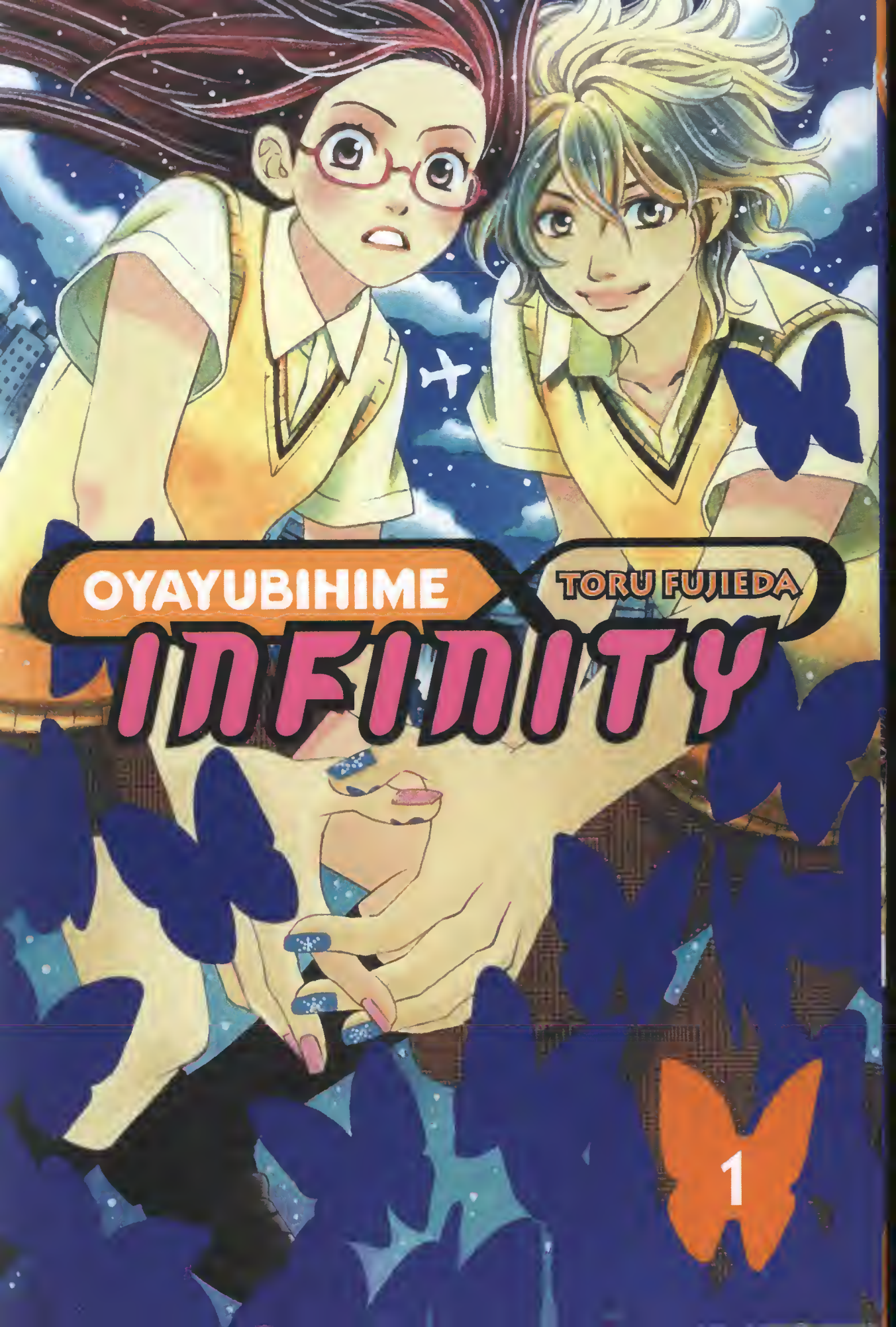
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
AND BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE
OF IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

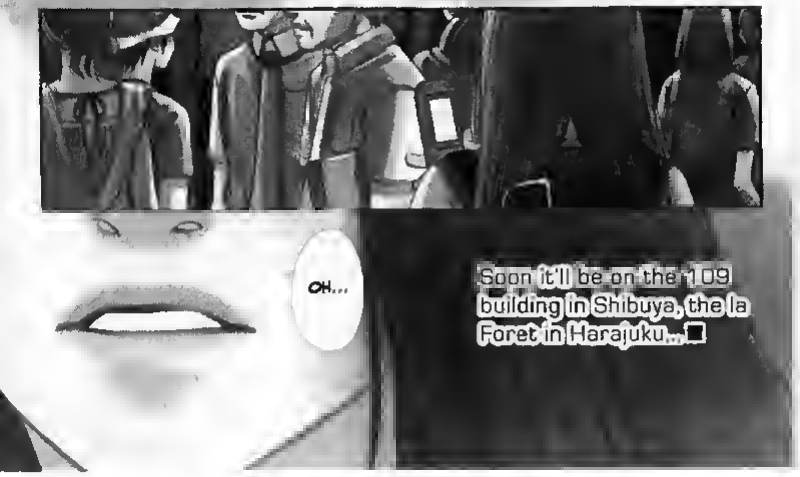

OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
1

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 1

By Toru Fujieda

★ I just saw our commercial again on the ALTA Vision in Shinjuku. Maya's a real head-turner. ■



OYAYUBIHIME

INFINITY

Volume:1

READ MAIL
(SUBJECT)
CONTENTS
(MESSAGE BODY)

Chapter 1:
Isn't this, you know, not possible? ...3
Chapter 2:
"Destined love" is kind of annoying ...53
Chapter 3:
The Rabbit Prince ...89
Chapter 4:
The Second Encounter ...127
Chapter 5:
Butterflies, airplanes, and cellular phones reception ...159

◆ This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to real persons or situations is entirely coincidental.

Mayu, The Maya we made is going to take on
OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 1
Isn't this, you know, not possible?

all of Tokyo. –Kano
MAIL SENT SUCCESSFULLY
AN AIR-PLANE ...

WHO YOU E-MAILING?
There he is, your ready-to-order nail servant.
Any end every girl at his beck and call
Or, well, he's at theirs. Same thing
I don't get it. He likee being their pet?
Men.
Not my type et all.

TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA IS POPULAR AS EVER.
ALRIGHT-- FINISHED.
Pretty butterfly!
Me, too!!
HEY, CAN YOU PAINT ONE OF THOSE ON ME, TOO?
OHMYGOSH THAT IS SO CUTE! ♡
You're SO good at this!
ONCE THE TOP COAT DRIES, YOU CAN KEEP THIS ON FOR A WEEK.
For real, anything, any thing!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET ♡ TO WORK!

H--
HEYYY!
I'm calling you!!
SLAM
♪ Sorry, have I interrupted something?
SHE DOESN'T DESERVE IT!!
IGNORE HER, TSUBAME !!
THEY SAY SHE'S SMART, YEAH.
Hmm
STILL IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HER IN A CONVER-SATION.
SHE WAS LITERALLY AT THE TOP OF HER CLASS THIS SEMESTER, THOUGH.
KANOKO HIMEMIYA ...
What a name...
SHE'S ALWAYS WRITING E-MAILS ON HER PHONE.

HEY, HEY-- CAN I PAINT YOUR FINGER-NAILS?
YOU'D...
...LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU?
duck
UH...

Nice to meet you! ①

Welcome to my new comic! If you've never read one of my comics before, well, nice to meet you. Hello.

It's been a while since I've written for a... new audience(?) If you enjoy this manga, well, there would just be no greater pleasure for me.

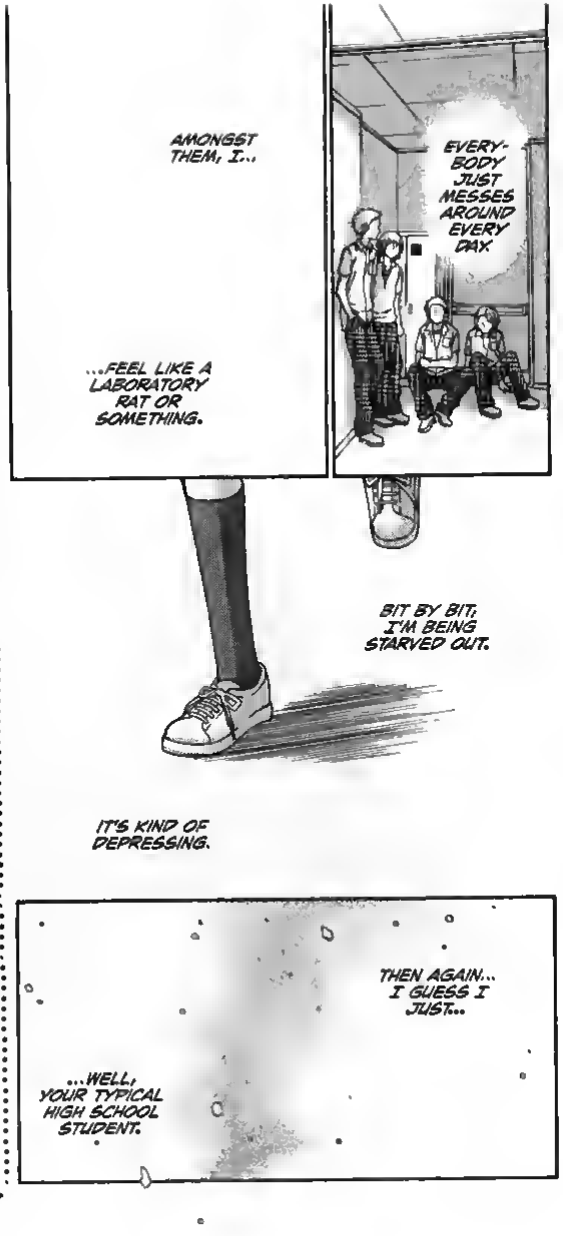
★

I wrote a little sidebar about the composition of the cover, though it turned out I'd gotten the size wrong. The last publisher I wrote for printed their books kind of big, so I was used to drawing sidebars that size.

You realize, when this manga is serialized in a magazine, this space right here would be used for advertisements. To tell you the truth, I haven't been asked to write some kind of commentary for such a sidebar in a really long time. Starting this sidebar here, I thought, "Yes! I'm really writing a manga, now!" It was great. And now I realize I spent a whole third of a page not really saying anything.

AND I GOT THE SIZE WRONG, TOO.

Continued in Part 2


AMONGST THEM, I...
EVERY-BODY JUST MESSES AROUND EVERY DAY.
...FEEL LIKE A LABORATORY RAT OR SOMETHING.
BIT BY BIT, I'M BEING STARVED OUT.
IT'S KIND OF DEPRESSING.
THEN AGAIN... I GUESS I JUST...
...WELL, YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

I'M ONLY SMART BECAUSE I STUDIED SO MUCH.
NOW I DON'T STUDY AT ALL. I CAN FEEL MYSELF GETTING DUMBER.
HM...
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE I HAVEN'T PAINTED...

OH, THIS IS JUST GOR-GEOUS! LOOK AT THIS PIN-UP!
I KNOW!
I think I saw her in a phone commercial.
HER NAME'S MAYA YUUKI.
And she's mine, so back off!!
IS SHE AN ACTRESS OR SOME-THING?
I REALLY LIKE THAT GIRL.
I don't believe you. Show me the yearbook!
YOU KIDDING?
THIS GIRL? SHE GRADU-ATED FROM HERE.
HEY, DID YOU KNOW--
I MIGHT GROW OLD AND ORDINARY.
AND YET...
...SHE IS DIFFERENT...
NO HOBBIES, CHARACTERISTICS, SPECIALTIES...

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN, I'M LIKE AN ANT.
LIKE ONE DEAD CELL ON THE WORLD'S FINGERNAIL.
IF I JUST DISAP-PEARED, THAT WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY.

"MAYA" ♡
DARLING
MAYA IS
SO
SPECIAL,
YES...
WHOOOSH

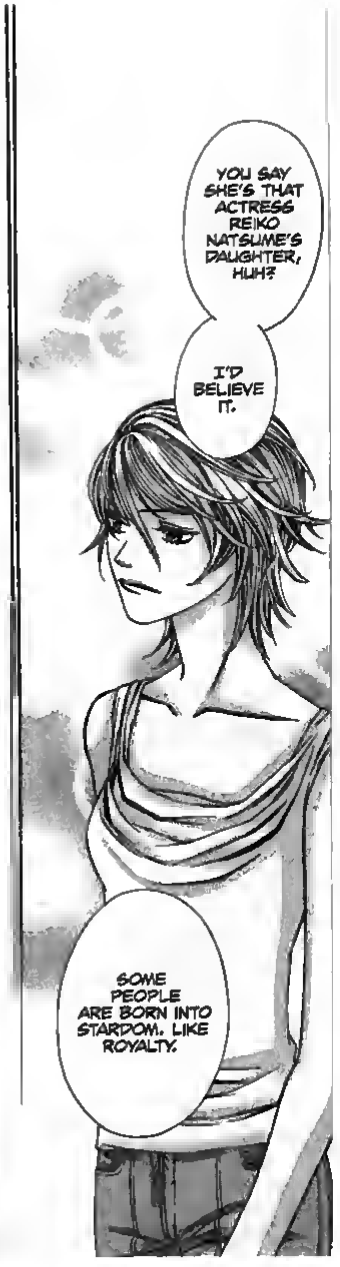
SEND
!!
J-PHANE

"MY ALICE"
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR THE PHOTOS.
THE INTER-VIEWER IS WAITING.
OKAY.
SO, THE NEW SHORT FILM "MY ALICE" MARKS YOUR ON-SCREEN DEBUT.
HOW WAS IT, BEING IN A MOVIE?
OH, ALL VERY EXCITING. STIMU-LATING.
VERY PUNK FILMMAKING-- JUST RUNNING AROUND THE CITY, SCOUTING LOCATIONS ON THE FLY.
SHE'S HIP.
THEY SAY SHE'S ONLY 18?
SHE'S GONNA BE BIG-- NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.

AHHH...
I WISH I COULD FLY. FREE AS... AN E-MAIL.
OH, THAT'S IT.
THAT'S IT, RIGHT THERE. HOLD IT!
THAT'S THE LOOK I WANT, MAYA-CHAN.
CLICK!
CLICK!

CRASH
W-WEL-COME--
OH, MY-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EEYOWWW...
Heh-- I guess I fell...
I'M HOME.
♡

ALL RIGHT!
CLUNK


YOU SAY SHE'S THAT ACTRESS REIKO NATSUME'S DAUGHTER, HUH?
I'D BELIEVE IT.
SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN INTO STARDOM. LIKE ROYALTY.

HER REAL NAME IS MAYU HIMEMIYA.
MAAAN, I'M HUNGRY.
KANOKO TOLD ME NOT TO EAT ANYTHING EXCEPT THE LUNCH SHE PACKED ME.
I HARMONIZED IT PERFECTLY TO YOUR CALORIE INTAKE AND NUTRITIONAL BALANCE.
Tofu steak and minestrone!! It was brilliant ★
MAYU IS MY BIG SISTER.
MAYU, HOW IS YOUR JOB GOING?
DON'T BE ASHAMED OF YOUR HERITAGE, YOU HEAR?
WE WERE BOTH BORN OF THIS SAME GORGEOUS ACTRESS.
OUR DADS ARE DIFFERENT, THOUGH.
OOH! I FORGOT-- THEY GAVE ME A PRINT OF SOME OF THE PICTURES THEY TOOK TODAY.
OH OH! SHOW ME!
ONCE UPON A TIME, MOM FELL IN LOVE WITH HER CO-STAR IN A MOVIE, AND THEY HAD A BIG CELEBRITY WEDDING.

MAYU.
God. I'm so DUMB!
OH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! THIS THING IS BRAND-NEW!
WAIT -- WHAT ?
MAYU-- YOU'RE MISSING A JACKET BUTTON.
HEY, MOM.
I SEE YOU'RE BACK.
COME ON, MOM. YOU HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING TONIGHT.
HER STAGE NAME IS "MAYA YUUKI."

SO HOW DID "MAYA" DO?
OH, SHE'S QUITE POP-ULAR.
.....
DON'T YOU WATCH TV, MOM? CHEAP IS GLAMOUR ...
DON'T SMILE TOO MUCH WHEN YOU'RE "MAYA," OKAY?
YEAH, I KNOW. "MAYA'S NOT LIKE THAT." I KNOW!
TODAY, LIKE, THIS PHOTO-GRAPHER...
RIGHT. "MAYA" IS..
...HE SAID, "OH, YOU HAVE GORGEOUS EYES, DARLING." JUST LIKE THAT!
...NEVER FLATTERED.

AND THIS, HER ELDEST DAUGHTER WAS BORN.
AND SOON THERE-AFTER, CATAS-TROPHE STRUCK THE MAR-RIAGE...
...AND MOM COULD NEVER WALK AGAIN
NO LONGER ABLE TO RISE UP TO THE STAGE, MOM SETTLED INTO A SIMPLE LIFE.
My dad.
AND THE MAN WHO CAME TO LOVE HER--
WELL, HE WAS A PLAIN OLD NORMAL GUY.
AND THEN... WELL, EVENTU-ALLY, ANYWAY, I WAS BORN.
HEY, YOU WANNA GO SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES ON SUNDAY?
YES! YES I DO!
Autumn and Winter fashions are on sale now!
NOW, MAYU, LEARN TO TRUST YOUR FASHION CONSUL-TANT.
WHO KNOWS WHAT KANOKO WOULD CHOOSE FOR YOU?
YOU CAN'T BARGAIN-HUNT FOREVER. DON'T BE AFRAID OF GLAMOUR.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT US.
MAYU TAKES AFTER MY MOM.
I TAKE AFTER MY DAD.
MOM'S DREAM WAS TO RAISE HER DARLING MAYU TO BE A BRILLIANT ACTRESS.
AW, WHAT CUTE LITTLE GIRLS YOU HAVE!
YET MAYU WAS CRIPPLED BY SHYNESS ...
YES.

SHE IS ALWAYS CONFIDENT.
SHE SEES THROUGH HER OPPONENTS.
IF SHE GLANCES AT YOU JUST ONCE, YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.
...SHE IS NEVER WOUNDED.
SHE ALWAYS DRESSES ORIGINALLY.
HER FREEDOM INTRIGUES THOSE WHO WITNESS IT.
SHE IS STRONGER THAN ANYONE.
YOU MUST BECOME STRONGER! AND MORE GORGEOUS!
MY BEAUTIFUL MAYA!!
THERE-FORE...

OKAY.
ASIDE FROM THE BUTTERFLY-SHAPED BIRTHMARKS ON OUR THUMBS...
WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.
TOGETHER, WE MADE "MAYA."
MAYU PERFORMED AS MAYA.
THEY ARE OUR TREASURE
MAYA'S INFLUENCE MULTIPLIED.
AND NOW SHE IS ON THE VERGE OF CHANGING THIS CITY FOREVER.

I CAN'T... PERFORM IN FRONT OF PEOPLE!
KANOKO! I CAN'T DO IT!
THOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO LOOKED PLAIN, I HARBORED THE DREAMS OF WRITING, AND ACTING.
I'LL MAKE A NEW MAYU.
WELL, THEN.
IT'LL BE LIKE MAKING A CHARACTER.
PEOPLE WILL LOOK UP TO HER.
SHE'LL BE COOL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU LIKE ACTING-- YOU CAN DO THIS!
WHEN YOU WANT TO ACT IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, JUST PLAY THE CHARACTER I'LL MAKE!

DING
DONG
AHHH...
THEY ARE SO PEACE-FUL...
WAIT A SEC-OND...
WHO THE...
HMMM...

...I HAVE NO GREATER WISH.

TOKYO WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH MAYA.
AND THAT...
...WELL, FOR LITTLE OLD ORDINARY ME...

UH, NO. Eew
What a weirdo...
IF NOT ...
CAN I DO YOUR NAILS FOR YOU?
WHAT ...
... THE HECK !!
ARE YOU GOING HOME SOON?
I ...
...I ...
Do you think I'm weird? I'm not weird, am I?
JUST LISTEN...
FOR A SEC-OND !
DON'T TOUCH ME !!

MAYBE THEY'RE HERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON MAYA?
HMMM...
I'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE THEY DON'T FIND OUT WHO I AM.
MAYBE THEY FOUND OUT SHE WENT TO SCHOOL HERE.
OH, MAN...
ARF!!

WAIT A SEC--
UM, HEY ...
HEY!
WOW ...
I'VE FOUND HER...
STOMP STOMP
THUMB.
HER ...

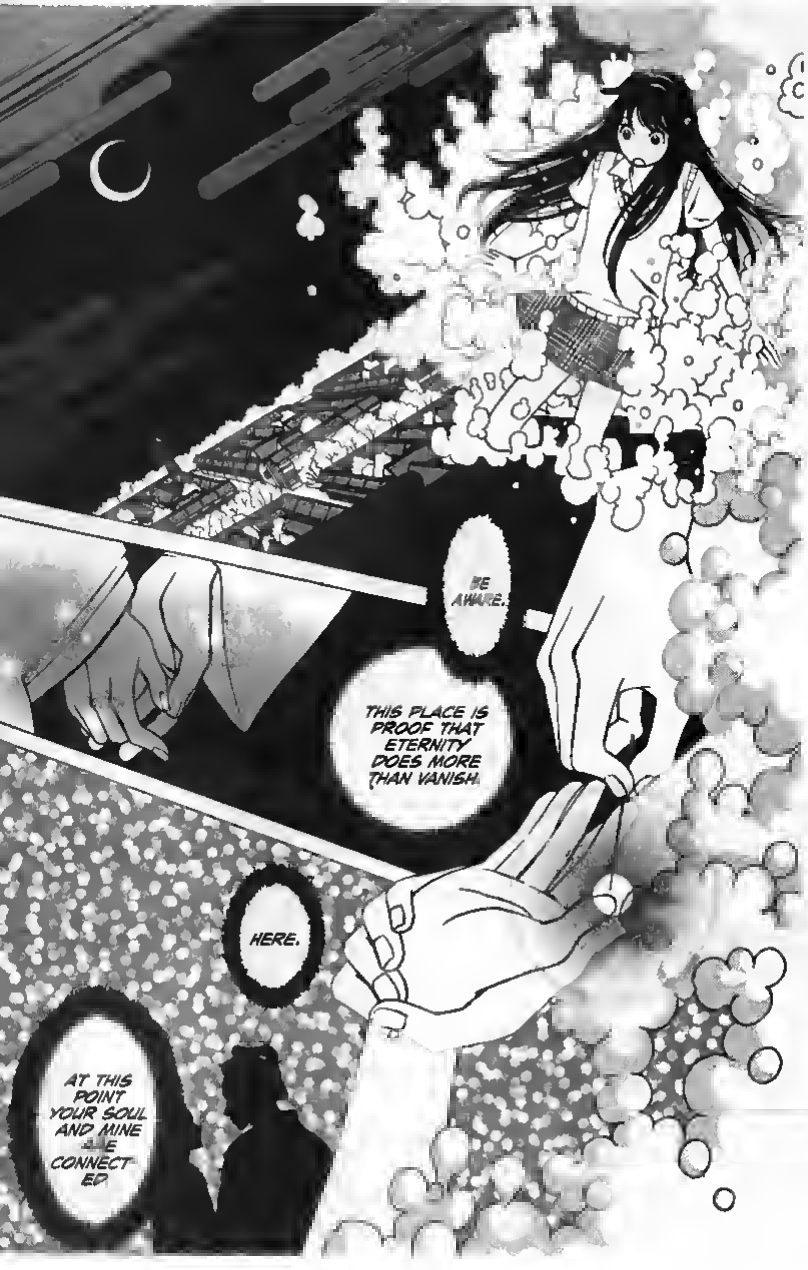
UH...
I'M ...
I'M SORRY!
OWW!!

OH, NO--
--OH, MAN...
rustle rustle
IS THAT, UM ...
IS IT--
HEY!
GOOD-BYE!
WHAT DO I DO?
WAS THAT MAYA-CHAN?
OH, GOD, HE'S FOLLOW-ING ME...
VROOM

HEY THERE.
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GUY'S PROB-LEM?
I DON'T GET IT.
WE'RE HERE RESEARCH-ING MAYA YUUKI, AND...
FLIP
GRAB
SO, WELL ...
...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER?
rustle
Oh, no-- I forgot.
...WE HEAR SHE USED TO GO TO THIS SCHOOL, RIGHT?

VRRRROOOM
WHA--
--YOW!!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DON'T TOUCH HER AGAIN!
"Pops?"
HOLD ON.
Huh?!

KANOKO-CHAN!
LET'S GO!
Voilà
SORRY, POPS...
...SHE'S MINE NOW!!


BE AWARE.
THIS PLACE IS PROOF THAT ETERNITY DOES MORE THAN VANISH.
HERE.
AT THIS POINT YOUR SOUL AND MINE ARE CONNECTED.

KRRRRRR
WHAT IN THE--
SHRRR
SQUEEZ
OWCH--
SPLASH

WHAT!! NO WAY!!
MY APOLOGIES, LADIES-- THE DATE MUST BE POST-PONED!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TSUBA-ME-CHI?!
YOU PROM-ISED WE'D GO OUT ON A DATE TONIGHT!!
Who's that little tramp with you?
...STOP!
HEY...
YOU...
...SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?

...WE SHALL, AND CAN, MEET AGAIN, HERE--IN A FUTURE LIFE.
THOUGH DOING SO BETRAYS THE BUDDHA'S TEACH-INGS...
SPLASH
!!

COME IN.

twitch
twitch
MIKE, IT WAS JUST LIKE I SAID!
SHE REALLY WAS THIS CLOSE!!
Milk?
.....
WOW, THIS PLACE IS... KIND OF NICE, ACTUALLY.

DING DONG
GACK
IT'S ME! ME!! YOU KNOW... ME?
YEAH, IT'S YOU! YOU! WHO ELSE COULD YOU BE?
Lugger

LET ME GO! WHERE ARE WE?!
I WANT TO GO HOME !!
HEY, HEY, HEY, COME ON, TELL ME-- YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?!

WHO THE HECK IS THAT GUY?
He looks pretty weird ?
MIKE, MY DEEEAR!!♡
OHMYGOD OHMYGOD OHMY-GOD!! YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT!!
.....

POP
...YEAH, AN AIR-PLANE. YEAH ...

CR
WELL, WHAT I MEAN IS--
RICK
.....OH.
YO.

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR SO LONG...
HEY --
SEE?
WE MATCH.

AT LAST, I HAVE FOUND YOU!!
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
I ... I ...
DIDN'T EVEN DO ANY-THING!!
AND NOW ...!!
YOU SAW IT, THOUGH, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU KNOW,
...WITH THE WATER?
YOU... HOW DID YOU--
WITH THE... SPLASH?
GRIP
LIKE I WAS... FALLING IN...
AND THEN, THAT STRANGE VOICE...
WH-- WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
I didn't eat any mushrooms today?
KANOKO-CHAN...
YOU... HAVE A BIRTHMARK ON YOUR RIGHT THUMB, RIGHT?

...HUH?
.....
.....
WHAT YOU...
...SAW EARL ER...
I HAVE BEEN SEEING IT EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL.
THE IRTH-MARK ON YOUR THUMB IS A SIGN...
SW OO SH
THIS ISN'T FUNNY. THIS IS STUPID.
KANOKO-CHAN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

HUH?
KANOKO-CHAN...
YOU AND I...
...WE MADE A PROMISE.
THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN.
IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE.

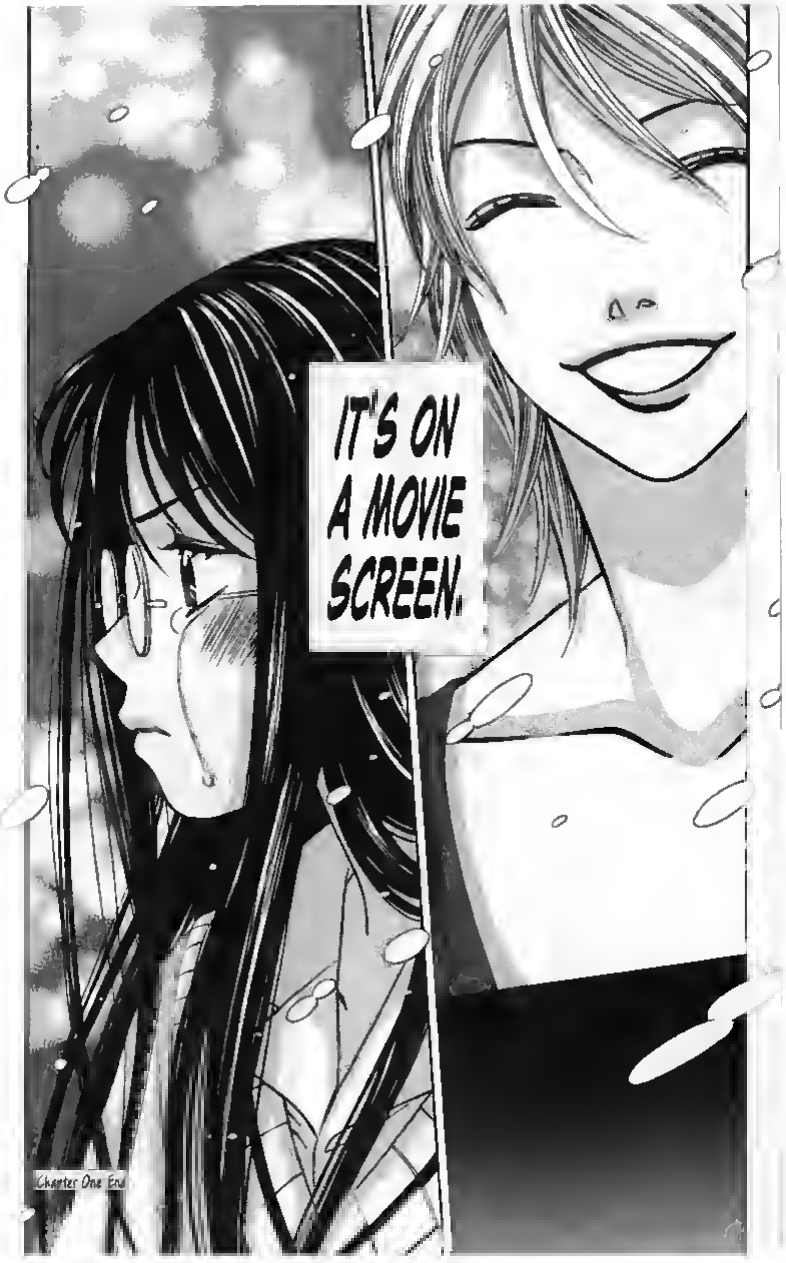
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
SLAM!!
.....
.....
I'M GOING HOME.
WAIT, YOU DON'T UNDERST--
YOU WEIRDO.
DON'T FOLLOW ME.
YOU THINK MAYBE I REALLY AM--
...A WEIRDO?
.....
IT'S ALL...
...TRUE, THOUGH.

THE STORY AS YOU PRESENT IT IS QUITE UNBELIEVABLE.
YES.
I MEAN, I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT TO FIND IT WEIRD AND ALL...
YES.
SHE'LL COME TO UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH...
MAYBE SHE'S JUST SURPRISED BECAUSE IT'S SO... SUDDEN!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
SHE... MOST CERTAINLY IS...
MY DESTINED LOVE!!
!!

I KNOW THAT MUCH.
I WON-DER...
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY SUCH THING AS YOUR "DESTINED LOVE" IN THIS WORLD?
AHHH
MY FINGER HURTS...
drip drip drip
WHAT?
YEAH.
THE ONLY PLACE FOR "DESTINED LOVE" ISN'T HERE...
WHY AM I CRYING ...?

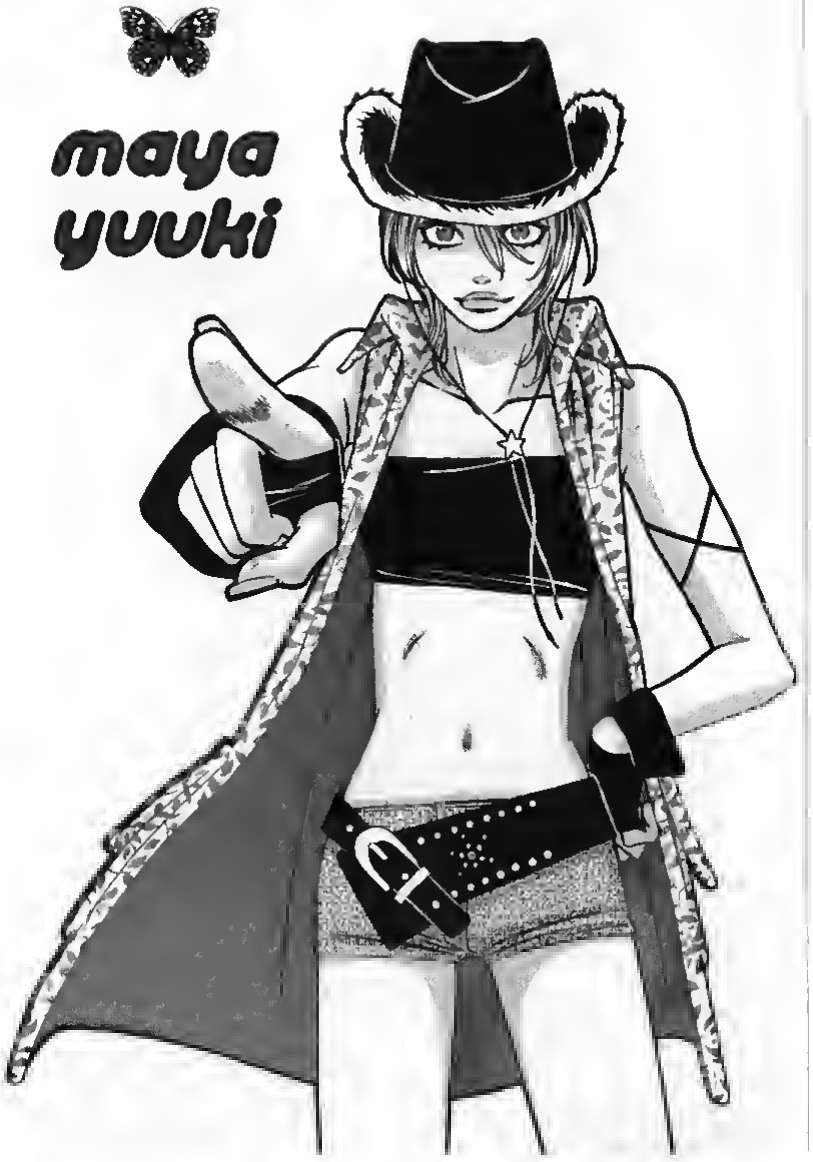
WHY DID HE FOLLOW ME?
UDOMM!!
HE THOUGHT HE COULD TRICK ME THAT EASILY?
THEY MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT MY BIRTHMARK, AND THOUGHT THEY COULD FOOL ME...
HOW MOR-TIFYING.
THIS MARK BELONGS ONLY TO ME AND MAYU.
WHAT A JOKE.
EVEN IF THERE WAS...
"THE PREVIOUS LIFE," NO SUCH THING.
THAT WAS THEN, AND THIS IS NOW. I DON'T OWE HIM ANYTHING.

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 2
"Destined Love" is kind of annoying.


IT'S ON A MOVIE SCREEN.
Chapter One End

BOOM!!
YOU HAVE CAPTIVATED ME!!
THE ROLE YOU PLAYED IN "MY ALICE"
IT WAS PERFECT !!
NO! NOT JUST THAT! YOU! YOU YOURSELF!! I MADE THAT MOVIE JUST FOR YOU!
I WANTED-- NEEDED TO RELATE YOU--YOUR PERFECTION TO THE WORLD!!
HOWEVER
THEREFORE !!
I... YOU MUST
...MISTER DIRECTOR ...
WHY, THANK YOU.
AT THE END OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND, DOES ALICE NOT AWAKE TO FIND IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM?

maya yuuki



ALOHA!!
YAY!!
WHERE DOES HE THINK HE IS? HAWAII?
.....
HELLO.
MORNING!!
HUH?
HEY. HEY.
AHH
DID YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID, "ALOHA"!
CLOMP CLOMP

NO!
MAYA!!
NOOOOOOOOO
My angel!!
Sir?
FARE-WELL.
I AM FLAT-TERED
...THAT YOU WOULD CALL ME PERFECT.
SWOOP
MAYA.
THOUGH I MAY GO FAR AWAY, DO NOT FORGET ME.
THE GOOD WEATHER COMES LIKE A PUNCH IN THE FACE.
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE SOME-TIMES.
CREEAK
EVERY SINGLE DAY, I COME HERE.
What a weirdo?
REALLY? CREEPY.
DID YOU HEAR?
ABOUT THE WEIRD OLD GUY CREEPING AROUND OUR SCHOOL?
EVEN ON DAYS LIKE THIS, I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO SKIP CLASSES.
Good morning!

GAG ME.
Cheeky
UM.
IT SEEMS THAT YESTERDAY I WAS... SLAPPED.
Wooo!
I AM SORRY! I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DATE ANY OF YOU.
My apologies!
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO GO OUT WITH HER.
OH, THIS KEEPS GETTING WORSE.
DO YOU THINK WE COULD GO OUT TODAY INSTEAD?
Do my nails!
OH, PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THIS HERE...
WHAT?! BY HIMEMIYA?
WHY?
WHAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! FROM TODAY FORWARD, KANOKO AND I ARE OFFICIALLY DATING!!

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW-- I DON'T BELIEVE ONE WORD OF THAT STUFF YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY.
I SAID GET A-WAY FROM ME!
WHAT A DISGRACE THAT WAS...
I KNOW!
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IN TIME, THOUGH!
YOU
HEE HEE
GRAB
WHAT THE--
HEY!
I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE!!
HEYYY, TSUBAME-CHI!!
grrrr!
What the heck!!
Trust me!
COME ON, LET'S HOLD HANDS AGAIN!
OH, MAN, IT'S THE SCHOOL-GIRL ARMY.
OH.
YEAH.
Yuko said you canceled your date with her yesterday!
THE TWO OF YOU SEEM SO FRIENDLY ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
WELL?
HOW ABOUT TELLING US WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND HIMEMIYA-SAN?
snicker

OH, KILL ME NOW.
...HMMM...
J-PHANE
SHE HASN'T REPLIED TO MY MAIL.
SHE ALWAYS REPLIES RIGHT AWAY.
MAYBE SHE'S BUSY? WITH SCHOOL?
YOU MEAN KANOKO?
ISN'T THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL COMING UP?
I USED TO LOVE SCHOOL FESTIVALS. ALL THE PREPARATIONS... Makes me all nostalgic?
HMMM...
School festival, huh?

WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THIS GUY?
NOW, NOW, DON'T BE SURPRISED, ♡ MY GORGEOUSES!! HAHAH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
HUH?
YES.
MY GIRLFRIEND!!
MY DARLING.
MY HONEY.
WHAT?! TSUBAMECHI HAS A GIRLFRIEND?!?!?!
HEY, GIRLS, UH..
AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THIS "GIRLFRIEND"?!
LIAR!!
NO WAY!!
SINCE YESTERDAY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THEN?!
IT'S... IT'S NOT... TRUE!
NO WAY! IMPOSSIBLE! I'LL KILL HER!!
TSUBAMECHI HAS A GIRLFRIEND?!
NO WAY!!
WE NEED TO E-MAIL EVERYONE!!
.....
Go warn the people in the halls!
KILL HER!! BURN HER!!
BOOM!!

"MIKE" IS MY NICK-NAME.
MY REAL NAME IS MIYAKE.
WOOSH
OH, WELL, THAT'S A NICE NAME, TOO...
HE HAS THE BUTTER-FLY BIRTH-MARK, TOO...
LOOK.
OH, PLEASE! NOT THIS AGAIN!
YOU GUYS REALLY NEED TO GROW UP!!
.....!!

HEY, KANO-CHI?
OH, NO, NO. I HAVE MY HANDS FULL JUST MANAGING YOU, MAYA.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL TO SCOUT MODELS, KATAGIRI-SAN?
HA HA HA
LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETH--
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS...
PLEW
UH...
Where'd she go?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU...
YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT HERE, ARE YOU?
Um? HEY, WAIT..
SWIPE
GAH!!
UM... YOUR NAME WAS... MR. MIKE, RIGHT?
She's being polite just in case.

TSUBAME'S CHILDHOOD
...I WAS ONLY SIX YEARS OLD, AND I'D JUST SUFFERED A MINOR (STUPIDITY-RELATED) HEAD INJURY.
THE FIRST TIME I RECALLED SCENES OF A LIFE THAT WERE NOT MINE...
"IF THOSE MEMORIES CAME BACK TO YOU..."
"THEN CLEARLY, YOU MUST SEEK THEIR TRUE PURPOSE."
NO ONE BELIEVED ME. THEY THOUGHT I'D JUST SEEN SOMETHING ON TV, AND PICKED IT UP THERE.
ONLY MY GRANDMOTHER UNDERSTOOD. SHE SAID, "THOSE ARE MEMORIES FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE. YOU MUST CHERISH THEM!"
I had to dance as a girl because there were more boys
MUCH LATER, I MET MIKE-CHAN.
AT THE MOMENT THE BIRTHMARKS ON OUR THUMBS CONNECTED
...MIKE SAW THE MEMORIES, TOO.
IT WAS IN FOLK DANCE CLASS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

IT'S REAL.
SLURP
...IT'S NOT RUB-BING OFF.
SCRUB SCRUB
HE'S HAD IT SINCE THE DAY HE WAS BORN.
Finally found you.
MIKE AND I BOTH HAVE.
Oh, man, they've got me cornered!!
SAME WITH YOU, RIGHT, KANOKO?

THAT'S WHY I WAS ALWAYS PAINTING FINGER-NAILS AND SUCH.
...I FIGURED THERE MIGHT BE A GIRL SOME-WHERE WHO ALSO HAS THIS BIRTH-MARK.
THERE-FORE
I LOOKED IT UP.
IT TURNS OUT THAT BACK IN THE EDO PERIOD *
...LADIES OF THE NIGHT WOULD MAKE VOWS WITH THEIR SELECTED LOVER...
...AND HAVE SUCH TATTOOS INSCRIBED ONTO THEIR BODIES.
AND THE GIRL I FINALLY FOUND...
WAS YOU, KANOKO.
IT'S... IT'S JUST A BIRTHMARK.
KANOKO-- YOU DID SEE THE MEMORY YESTERDAY, OF THE WATER?
YOU AND I, IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE--WE COMMIT-TED A LOVERS' SUICIDE.
WE JUMPED INTO THAT RIVER.
* IN JAPANESE HISTORY, LASTING FROM 1603 TO 1867.

SO YEAH, ME AND MIKE WENT OUT UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL.
"Went out?"
UH!
.....
LOVE
AND RIGHT THEN, I KNEW--MIKE HAD BEEN MY LOVE IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE!!
"ALL RIGHT THEN."
AND HIS REAC-TION WAS PER-FECT:
SO...
THIRD-YEAR
FIRST-YEAR
SO HAPPY TOGETHER!!
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST STAY TOGETHER. YOU KNOW, UH, BE... EACH OTHER'S "DESTINY?"
Kinda gay, though?
.....SO, UH.....
AND WE WON-DERED...
...WHAT DOES THIS BIRTHMARK MEAN, REALLY?
IT'S VERY SUBTLE. THE... PLACES ARE DIFFERENT.
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO SAY...?
WELL, WE THOUGHT OF THAT
THOUGH, UH, WE DISCUSSED IT, AND THE MEMORIES WE SHARE CLASH A LITTLE BIT.

THAT IS TO SAY...
...TO MEET YOU, KANOKO!
...OKAY...

KA-KANOKO-CHAN!!
Wait!!
SO, YEAH. DON'T BOTHER ME ABOUT THIS AGAIN.
RINNNG! RINNNG!
Ohmigod class is about to start?
UAHH?
Because you needed to see my thumb to know?
WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THIS SOONER?
WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS SINCE APRIL...

"LOVERS' SUICIDE?"
YES.
SO TOGETHER --
--WE TOOK OUR OWN LIVES.
WE WERE VERY, VERY MUCH IN LOVE.
YET THERE WERE FORCES AT WORK IN THAT TIME, TO KEEP US APART.
THIS BIRTHMARK IS A SYMBOL OF OUR OATH.
THAT I...
...ONCE MORE...
...WOULD BE BORN AGAIN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MEETING THE ONE I SO LOVED.

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT NAME, OUT OF A CARD-BOARD BOX?
HAVE YOU REMEM-BERED?!
"SUKE-ROKU?"
OH!
WAAAAH
SHE'S SO MEAN!!
MIKE-CHAA-AAN!!
SLAM!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
...WOULD BE BORN AGAIN FOR THE SOLE PUPOSE OF MEETING THE ONE I SO LOVED..
I...
...I WONDER IF HE SAYS THAT TO ALL THE GIRLS?
MAN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE SAID IT WITH SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE.

WAIT!!
AGEMAKI!!
SUKEROKU!!
AND I-- AM...
"AGE-MAKI"...
...THAT WAS YOUR NAME. IN THE, UH, PREVIOUS LIFE.

...SOMEONE REALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH HER!!
IT WAS GREAT! "MAYA," OUR CHARACTER ...
HE CALLED ME HIS "IDEAL WOMAN !!"
OH? REALLY ?! That guy who needs a haircut ?
Yeah. First thing in the morning, too!
WOW!
YEAH, OF COURSE I TURNED HIM DOWN RIGHT AWAY.
IF PEOPLE FIND OUT "MAYA'S" SECRET, WE'D BE IN TROUBLE!
WHICH IS A GOOD THING.
TURNING DOWN GUYS HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOUGH FOR ME, YOU KNOW.
THEY'RE ALWAYS COMING UP AND TALKING TO ME OUT OF NOWHERE...
THOUGH, YOU KNOW, SINCE I WAS "MAYA" AT THE TIME...
...I WAS ABLE TO TURN HIM DOWN SO GRACE-FULLY.

I REFUSE TO FALL FOR STUFF LIKE THIS.

I'M HOME.
And I'm tired
WEL-COME HOME, KANOKO !!
UH-- MAYU ?
You're home early today?
I was so lonely!!
YOU DIDN'T SEND ME ONE E-MAIL ALL DAY !!
OH MY GOD, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME TODAY!
HAHAH!
I THINK THE DIRECTOR OF "MY ALICE" TRIED TO PROPOSE TO ME OR SOMETHING.

WHEN WE TOUCH OUR THUMBS TOGETHER, NOTHING HAPPENS.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN, KANOKO ?
You look worried.
OH...
IT'S... NOTHING.
WHAT, REALLY, WAS IT THAT I SAW, YESTERDAY ?

I KNOW...
...THEY'RE JUST GUYS WHO ARE AFTER MY LOOKS.
AND THEN THEY TALK TO ME A LITTLE BIT, AND SAY.. I'M NOT WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.
WELL! ALL I NEED, ANYWAY, IS YOU, KANOKO.
AND ALL I NEED IS YOU, MAYU!!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MAYU..
...DID A GUY EVER APPROACH YOU SAYING HE WAS DRAWN TO--
I DON'T KNOW--
People have told me it looks weird, before?
THE BIRTH-MARK ON MY THUMB ?
HUH?
WELL, NO... HAHA

I GUESS I'D..
...NEVER SHOWN HIM MY BIRTHMARK BEFORE.
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT ANYMORE.
IT'S TOO ELABORATE JUST TO BE A JOKE
THAT, AND THE VISION I SAW YESTERDAY..
THE VISION OF THE WATER
THERE WAS SOMETHING SO REAL ABOUT IT
AND YET...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
ALL THE WAY THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
...I WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF WATER.
"AGEMAKI?"
"SUKEROKU?"
THAT BIRTHMARK

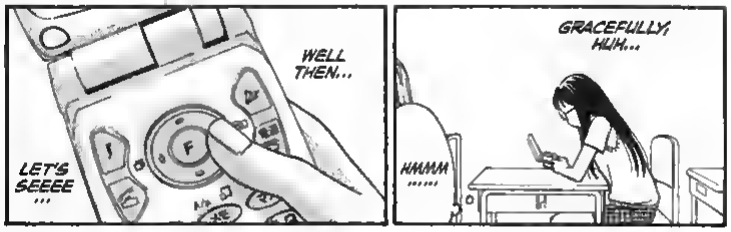
KANOKO! NO MATTER HOW BUSY YOU GET AT SCHOOL, DON'T FORGET ME!!
Send me more e-mail!
Okay. I get it.
You wanna help me stretch?
"WE WERE VERY VERY MUCH IN LOVE..."
"SO THE BOTH OF US.."
"WE TOOK OUR OWN LIVES..."
OF ALL THE CRAZY THINGS
I'M JUST SOME SIMPLE GIRL.
WHY WOULD THEY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TEASE ME LIKE THAT?

SO THAT OUR LOVE WOULD BE TRUE AGAIN SOMEDAY?
AND EVEN THEN THAT MIKE GUY...
...HE HAS THE BIRTH-MARK, TOO.
THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE SOME-ONE'S DESTINED LOVER ...
THERE MUST BE EVEN MORE, THEN...
OH, FORGET IT.
...MAYU?

THE PREVIOUS LIFE...
PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WRITE ABOUT REIN-CARNATION IN FICTION ANYMORE ...
ON TOP OF ALL THAT...
...THAT FORMER "ME"...
IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE...
...UNABLE TO BE WITH THE ONE SHE LOVED...
...PLANTED A BUTTERFLY TATTOO ON HER THUMB...
...EVEN MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO...
...AND COMMITTED SUICIDE ?
...I LIVED, AND WALKED THIS EARTH.

THE DESTINED LOVER I HE'S SEARCHING FOR...
MAYU HAS THE BIRTHMARK, TOO...
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE ...
...IS MAYU?!
SLEEP! SLEEP!
THIS ISN'T WORTH MY TIME.
WHAT THE HECK AM I THINKING...
VRRRRRR
MAN

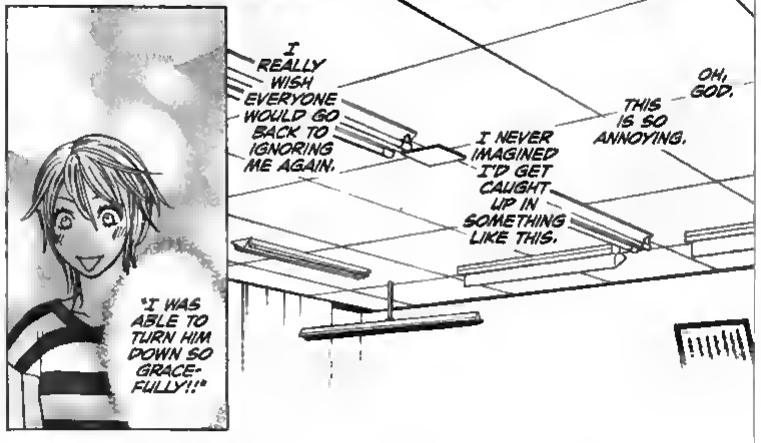
I MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO GET CAUGHT UP IN SILLY THINGS.
CRUNCH
AND YET...
GIVE TSUBAME BACK
FOR THE MEANTIME...
...I WILL GO TO SCHOOL, LIKE AN EXTREMELY AVERAGE GIRL.
...KIDS CAN'T HELP GETTING EXCITED ABOUT THE DUMBEST THINGS.
Well, I guess I'm a kid, too, technically.
CRUNCH
ALOHA!!


WELL THEN...
LET'S SEEEE...
GRACEFULLY, HUH...
HMMM.....

BA
NG
WELL, WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU--
YOU'RE BREAKING UP, NOW.
SO, YOU MUST THINK YOU'RE SO COOL, GOING OUT WITH TSUBAME, HUH?
WELL, IF YOU'D LISTEN TO ME, YOU'D UNDERSTAND WE'RE NOT GOING OUT—
WOW.

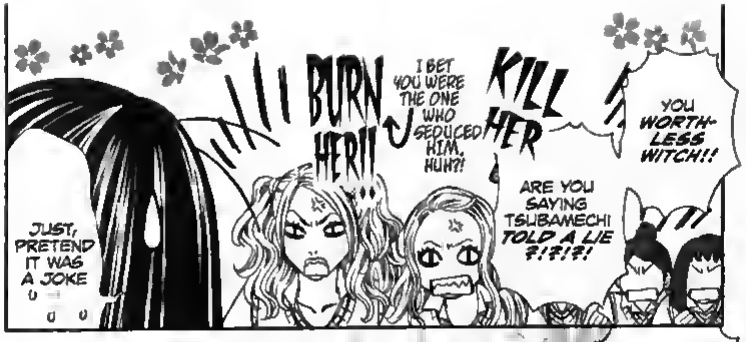
NEITHER!!
GO AWAY!
WELL, ANYWAY
...I WAS WONDERING! WOULD YOU PREFER I CALL YOU "KANOTAN" OR "KANOCHI"?
HIME-MIYA-SAN.
YEAH.
looking down
HM?
YOU'RE WEARING SLIPPERS TODAY?

BE THERE.
WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.
TODAY. AFTER SCHOOL.
WE'LL BE WAITING AT THE BACK GATE.


"I WAS ABLE TO TURN HIM DOWN SO GRACE-FULLY!!"
I REALLY WISH EVERYONE WOULD GO BACK TO IGNORING ME AGAIN.
I NEVER IMAGINED I'D GET CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
OH, GOD.
THIS IS SO ANNOYING.

...AND YOU GIRLS SAYING I CAN'T GO OUT WITH KANOKO?

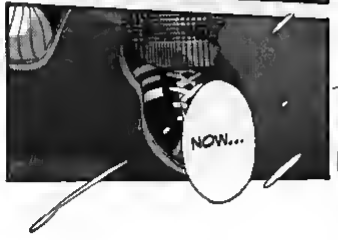
TS-TS-TS-
IS IT...
...BECAUSE SHE'S WEARING SLIPPERS TODAY?
If anyone's angry it's your fault!!
TSUBAME!
Are you angry at me?
TS-TSUBAME!
YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING OUT ON DATES WITH ALL OF US!
WHY WOULD YOU SUDDENLY GET A GIRLFRIEND?
And you used to paint our fingernails!!
HOW COULD YOU, WHEN I OBVIOUSLY LOVE YOU WAY MORE THAN SHE DOES?!


I'LL BURN HER!!
I BET YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SEDUCED HIM, HUH?!
KILL HER
YOU WORTHLESS WITCH!!
JUST, PRETEND IT WAS A JOKE
ARE YOU SAYING TSUBAMECHI TOLD A LIE ?!?!?!

Why must I be suddenly surrounded by such weirdoes?
WHAT'D I DO TO DESERVE THIS...?
...SO, WHY DON'T YOU, UH...
...TELL ALL THIS TO HIM?

NAME: TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 1ST
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 5 FEET 9 INCHES
WEIGHT: 108 POUNDS
FAVORITE FOOD: STRAWBERRIES, BIG MAC
CELLPHONE RINGTONE: LOONEY TUNES THEME SONG
TSUBAME IS OUR CLASS IDOL!!
HE CAN'T CHEAPEN HIS IMAGE BY HANGING OUT WITH TRASH LIKE YOU!

!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
WHAT THE HECK IS WITH YOU, ANYWAY?


NOW...

Tsubame's buddy Nackey
YOU HEAR ME?
BECAUSE! NEXT WEEK, WE'RE GOING TO BE THE BACKUP DANCERS FOR NACKEY AND TSUBAME'S PERFORMANCE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, THAT'S WHY!
I? me?

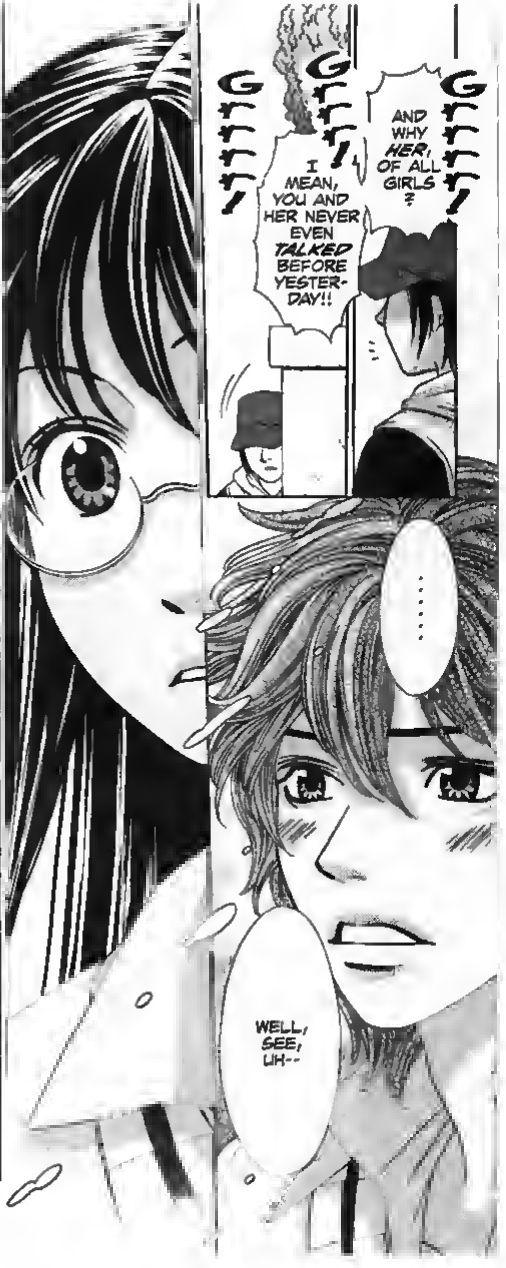
Wow, look at all the skirts?
HELLO, GIRLS !!
THIS IS KATAGIRI-SAN, MY... BOYFRIEND.
...TO... THIS GUY.
THERE-FORE ...
...TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA IS NOT MY BOYFRIEND.

SO, YOSHI-ZAWA-KUN--
YOU AND YOUR GANG CAN OFFICIALLY LEAVE ME ALONE.

SCREEEEEECH

clunk

Slam
UM-- ATTEN-TION PLEASE.
I'D LIKE TO INTRO-DUCE YOU ALL.


GLLL!
GLLL!
GLLL!
AND WHY HER, OF ALL GIRLS ?
I MEAN, YOU AND HER NEVER EVEN TALKED BEFORE YESTER-DAY!!
.....
WELL, SEE, UH--

Chapter Three
SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD...
THERE IS SOMEONE MEANT ONLY FOR ME.
I HAVE NOTHING.
PLEASE GRANT ME THE ONE THAT WILL GIVE ME A REASON TO LIVE.
THERE MUST BE SOME-ONE ...
WHO WILL LOVE ME.

VROOOOOOOM
BYE NOW.
mas
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO TODAY.
OH, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
ha ha ha
... KATAGIRI-SAN.
SORRY I HAD TO USE YOU LIKE THAT ...
THIS TIME
PERFECT, ACTUALLY.
OH, YOU DID GOOD.
...I WAS ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM EVERYTHING THAT ANNOYED ME. FOR A LITTLE WHI
I thought it was actually pretty cool?
AND, I GUESS, ONLY THIS TIME...
DID I DO GOOD? Scale of one to ten?
ANY-WAY, HOW WAS I?
Chapter Two: End

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER THREE
THE RABBIT PRINCE

IN OUR LAST EPISODE...
THIS IS KATAGIRI-GAN, MY, UH... BOY-FRIEND!!
I AM SO NOT GOING OUT WITH TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA!
I FIGURED THAT WAS IT.
AIMEMIYA TURNED TSUBAME DOWN?!
WHAT A JOKE!!
SHE HAS AN OLDER BOYFRIEND?!
WHAT TRASH!
DISASTER HAD BEEN AVERTED, FOR THE TIME BEING.
THE AFTERMATH
AND YET..
REALLY?
REALLY?
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
YES, I DO.
WHY...!!!!
NE JUST DIDN'T GET IT.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? PRETTY PLEASE?
KANOCHI, YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU? OUR PREVIOUS LIFE?
YOU FELT HOW IN LOVE THOSE TWO PEOPLE WERE, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU DID?
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME!!
WHA-!
YEAH, IT WAS NOT YOU -- IT WAS MY BOY-FRIEND
I JUST REMEMBERED WHO MY LOVER WAS, IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE!!
OH.
OUR "PREVIOUS LIFE," HUH?
OH, GROW UP ALREADY
NOOOOOO!!
HE NEEDS TO GIVE THIS A REST ALREADY.
SO SORRY!!
BAM!!
CRRACK!
WH-- WHY DO YOU...
KANOCHI, WAI--
SNOO
DINK

Peek
.....
...GO OUT WITH ME?
MAYBE HE...
SERIOUSLY...
REALLY WANTED TO...
!!.....
POPULARITY STATUS: RETURNED
GET WELL SOON!!
More! Give him MORE!!
TSUBA-MECHI! TAKE THIS!
AND TAKE THIS, TOO!!
HMMM...
I WILL NEED TO BEGIN THE SEARCH ONCE MORE...
LET'S ALL GO OUT ♡ TOGETHER AGAIN, TSUBAME!
WE'RE KINDA GLAD, THOUGH!
Our Tsubame has returned to us!!

I THINK IT'S WORKING...
...NOTHING I CAN... DO...
I GUESS THERE'S
HAC HAC
WELL THEN...
THAT WAS HIS SERIOUS FACE...
MAYBE...
YOU THINK...
...HE WAS BEING SERIOUS ALL THIS TIME?
.....
THAT WAS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE FLOOR?
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
Chocolate?
SWOOOOSH
UM, TSU-BAME?

NOT ME.

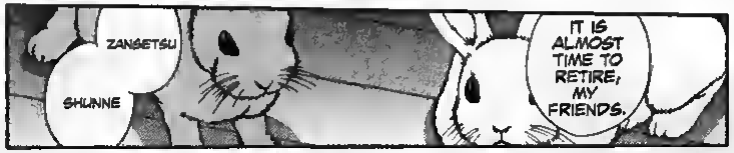
MY NORMAL LIFE RETURNED TO ME...
(TSUBAME'S GROUPIES STILL KEEP STARING AT ME, THOUGH.)
AND THUS, I WAS LIBERATED.
MAYU!!

NO WAY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
NO WAY.
IS HE...
...FOR HIS "DESTINED LOVE?!"
...SEARCHING?
...ACTUALLY, SERIOUSLY...
AND IT'S...
...IS.
HE...
WHY?

MAYU. PLEASE COME INTO MY ROOM FOR A MOMENT.
SOON, YOUR ABILITIES WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST.
...YES.
IT'S... BEAUTI-FUL.
YOU'RE GIVING ME THIS RING?
YES. I USED TO WEAR IT WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
THANK YOU, MOTHER!!
HM.....
HEY, LET'S ORDER SOME COCK-TAILS.
You sayin' you can actually sing?
ALRIGHT, WHO'S SINGING NEXT?
I'LL SING AN EMINEM SONG!!
KAAAH
WOW
HOO

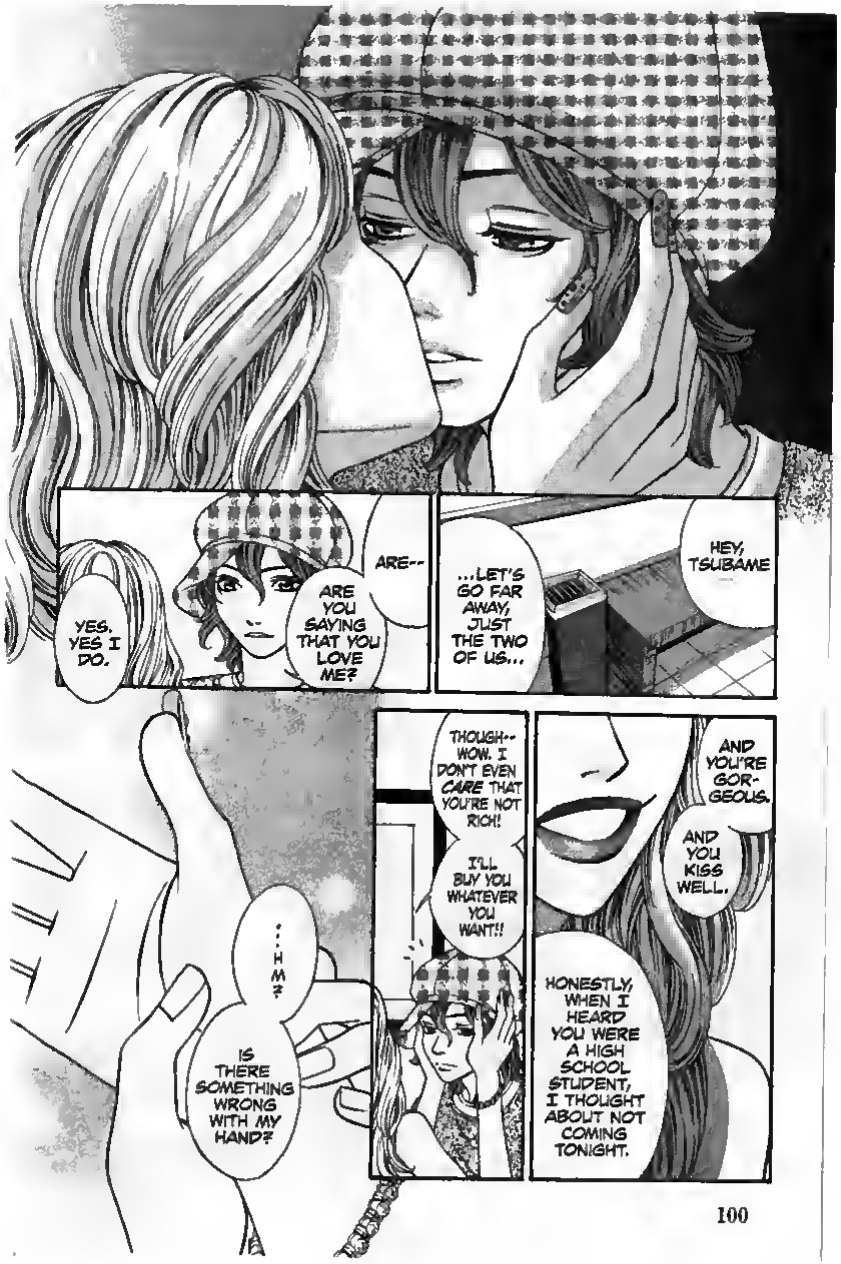
OH, MAN!
YOU DID IT!!
WH-WH-WH-WH-WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!?!
"MAYA" GOT HER FIRST TV ROLE!!
A TWO-HOUR MADE-FOR-TV MOVIE!!
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS!!
IT'S GOING TO BE ON NATIONAL TELE-VISION !!
I MEAN, I WAS OKAY DURING THAT LITTLE INDEPEN-DENT FILM--THIS, THOUGH...
MAYA'S... MAYA'S THE STARRING ROLE!!
YOU MUSTN'T CELEBRATE YET.
ALL STARS GET STARTED IN DRAMAS LIKE THIS!
AND YOU KNOW--THIS IS YOUR TICKET TO STAR-DOM!
REALLY?!
IT'S IN-DECENT.
GIRLS.
YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY!!
YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT ACTRESS, AND YOU KNOW IT!
And I'll be there to coach you through e-mail!!

OH...IT'S NOTHING.


ZANGETSU
SHUNNE
IT IS ALMOST TIME TO RETIRE, MY FRIENDS.

DING-DONG
DING-DONG
ding-dong
DING-DONG
ding-dong DING-DONG
KNOCK
KNOCK
MIKE-CHAN!! OPEN UP!!

YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING.
You stink.
Correct!! I HAD A BLIND DATE WITH SOME GIRLS, A WHOLE BUNCH ♡ OF 'EM!!
.....
WAHAH HAHAH HAH!!
MIKE- HOW YOU DOIN' OLD BUDDY OLD PAL ?!?!
SLAM


ARE--
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU LOVE ME?
YES. YES I DO.
HEY, TSUBAME
...LET'S GO FAR AWAY, JUST THE TWO OF US...
THOUGH-- WOW. I DON'T EVEN CARE THAT YOU'RE NOT RICH!
I'LL BUY YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
AND YOU'RE GOR-GEOUS.
AND YOU KISS WELL.
HONESTLY, WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, I THOUGHT ABOUT NOT COMING TONIGHT.
...HM?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY HAND?

I WAS... I WAS BORN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MEETING HER!!
TO MEET HER, AND TO LOVE HER !!
I WON'T !!
YOU MUST END YOUR SEARCH FOR THIS "DESTINED LOVE."
DO YOU THINK... MAYBE YOU WERE WRONG?
OR DO YOU...DO YOU JUST HATE ME?!
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD LIE TO ME JUST TO GET ME AWAY FROM YOU?!
HOW COULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME ?
.....
MIKE !!
YOU SAID, BEFORE, THAT YOU WERE NOT "AGEMAKI."

WOO-HOO! THIS CALLS FOR CHAM-PAGNE !!
AHH!!
MIKE, WERE YOU STUDY-ING?
How many is a "bunch?"
ALAS! NONE OF THEM HAD THE BIRTH-MARK OF DESTINY !! AGAIN !!
HEY.
MIKE, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO COLLEGE IN HOKKAIDO NEXT YEAR ?
YES.
TSU-BAME ..
I...I REALLY THOUGHT I FOUND HER.
YET... KANOKO'S DESTINED LOVE WAS SOMEONE ELSE.
NOT ME.
PLEASE DON'T.
I... HAVEN'T FOUND HER YET. PLEASE

I WAS BORN
...TO MEET HER.
E--
EVEN YOU TRIED TO DITCH ME, MIKE.
.....
"AND TO LOVE HER!!"

HOW NASTY OF YOU! TO MAKE ME FEEL THAT WAY AND THEN THROW ME AWAY LIKE THAT.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S AS MUCH MY FAULT AS IT IS YOURS.
.....
MIKE-CHAN! YOU USED TO KISS ME, REMEMBER?!
NO.
THEN AGAIN
OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE.
I...
...I JUST DON'T WANT TO END UP ALL ALONE.

HEY!! ARE YOU THE HIMEMIYA GIRL WHO SNUBBED TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA?
I GUESS.
THE HECK IS THIS?
OOO-OOOH!! GRRR-RRR!!
UWAAAAA-ARRRR!!
BLINK BLINK
BLINK
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE GUESSING A BARNYARD ANIMAL OR SOMETHING?
YOU, TOO, GIRLIE.
THIS WAY.
HM?
YO! TSUBAME!!
Long time no see!!
COME HERE FOR A SECOND, PLEASE?
UH...
KIKI-SEMPAI!!
Meanwhile in the practice studio with Nagisa and Tsubame

TWO DAYS REMAIN UNTIL THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
OUR CLASS IS BUSY AS A BEEHIVE.
ALRIGHT, THIS IS ALL WE NEED TO CARRY!
THIS IS THE LAST OF THE CHORES FOR TODAY!
UM...
...DO YOU GUYS NEED MY HELP WITH ANYTHING?
UH?
GO IGNORE
...how much should we charge?
DA DA
Scribble Scribble
PARDON ME!
NOT THAT I CARE.
I guess they really hate me now, huh.
Bunch of amateurs

WHAT?!
WE PREFER THE TERM "EROTIC FICTION."
YOU KNOW, REAL PUBLISHING COMPANIES PUBLISH THAT STUFF FOR REAL.
KIKI-SEMPAI, YOU SOLD ADULT BOOKS?
...JUST KEEP MULTIPLYING.
THE WEIRD-OES...
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL IT! DON'T YOU CAUSE TROUBLE AGAIN!
She? writes this stuff?
QUICK
IN HERE.
TH-THE...
THE LIBRARY?!
OH! WELCOME BACK, BOSS!!

I'M KIKI NOMURA. SOPHOMORE.
GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS.
YOU KIDS BE CAREFUL!
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO HELP ME BIND SOME BOOKS, IS ALL!
YOU KIDS BETTER NOT BE UP TO MISCHIEF AGAIN!
AND PUT DUST COVERS ON MAGAZINES.
THAT GIRL, RIGHT THERE, LAST YEAR, AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL--
SHE SOLD ADULT MATERIALS!!
Chatter
Uh?
Who's that?
H-HEY!!
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GONNA HURT 'EM!
H-HEY! LISTEN!
NOMURA!!

"Manly torso!!"
"IN THE DARKENED LIBRARY, HE CARESSED ME."
"SENSEI, HOLD ME!' I CRIED, GRASPING HIS MANLY TORSO.
IT'S MY MASTER-PIECE!!
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB 3
NUDE COVER
AND WE'RE GOING TO PUT IN THE BONUS MINI BOOKS ♡ TODAY, TOO.
YOU ARE! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME WITH THE COVERS! WE MAKE THE COVERS, AND PUT THEM ON THE BOOKS!
THE... COVER? M-M-ME?
I THOUGHT WE WERE HERE TO HELP YOU WITH BOOKS?
EROTIC
WE CANNOT ESCAPE THE FACT THAT MEN AND WOMEN DO INDEED LOVE !!
THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF MY SENSATIONAL FICTION IS TO PROBE THE MYSTERIES OF THE LOVING HEART!!
CLUMP CLUMP CLUMP
SHKRRR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DO-DO-DON
DO-DO-DON

HEH HEH HEH, HEH
TSUBAME--
I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE OF YOU.
I'm supposed to be practicing for Nackey and Tsubame.
SO, KIKI, WHAT'D YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
OH, YEAH. THAT.
HA HA HA HA!
AH! BOSS!! YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURED ♡YOUR TARGET AS ALWAYS !!
WE LOVE YOU!
IT'S WHAT I DO !!
NAKED?!?!
We're in school!
Y-YOU MEAN, RIGHT NOW?!
I WOULD LIKE TO USE A NUDE PHOTO OF YOU FOR THE COVER OF THE BOOKS I'M GOING TO SELL AT THE FESTIVAL. ♡
WOULD YOU MIND
...GETTING NAKED, RIGHT HERE?!

SLIDE
SLAM
WHAT.
You can't be serious!!
AND YOU-UUU, MIKE-SAN..
YOU THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME SHOTS OF THE TWO OF YOU POSING TOGETHER?
WAIT A--
OKAY.
A-R-I-G-H-T!
STRIP DOWN, PLEASE!!

RIGHT, TSUBAME? YOU'LL LET ME TAKE IT? PRETTY PLEASE?
N-nude?
HEH HEH HEH
I'M TOTALLY GOING TO TAKE A NUDE PICTURE OF HIM!!
HE IS!!
IS TSUBAME HERE?
How'd you find us?
OH, HELLO, MIKE.
YOU WANT TO LET EVERYONE SEE YOU, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SO HANDSOME. THE GIRLS WOULD LOVE IT!
I MEAN, WHY WOULDN'T YOU?
AWW YOU GUYS.
...I... GUESS.

OR IS HE?
WOO-HOO! BRAVO!!
ALRIGHT! THAT'S ALL WE NEED!
The Festival is fast approaching!
YOU AGREED TO HELP US PREPARE THE BOOKS!
OR DID YOU FORGET YOUR PROMISE?
WE'LL PAY YOU!!
GYAH
I GUESS UH, I'M DONE, TOO...
OH NO YOU DON'T!!
WE'LL PAY YOU ROYALTIES!
THANK YOU KINDLY, TSUBAME!
D-...did I?
You did good, kid.
This'll sell books!

GAH
HEY HEY! HE'S ALREADY SIGNED THE CONTRACT!!
WAIT A SECOND, YOU CAN'T JUST--
I'm knocked.
AND DON'T LOOK OVER HERE!
We've already paid off the librarian.
IF THE TEACHERS FIND OUT, WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
HIMEMIYA-SAN, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB FOR YOU: GUARD THE DOOR.
My name is Kazami.
I DON'T GET THIS GUY
HE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING IT.
WHAT IS HE DOING?!

THEY WERE THE TALK OF THE TOWN!!
How'd you hear?
"THE FAMOUS COUPLE OF SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL."
SO, YEAH.
WE GO WAY BACK.
Look at that guy, hanging on Miyake like that!!
Mike-chan, let's eat out!!
Here they come!!
KYAAAA!
EEW.
*Mike is most afraid of the guys.
Y-YEAH, I HEARD THAT...
DID YOU KNOW TSUBAME AND THAT DUDE WHO WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO WERE DATING UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL?
So!!
They were, like, all gay together.
KYAAAA!!
KYAAAA!!
TSUBAME IS SO KYUUUUTE!!
ALWAYS SAYING STUFF LIKE "WE WERE LOVERS IN THE PAST LIFE."
THOUGH, WELL... ONCE MIKE GRADUATED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL, TSUBAME STARTED HANGING OUT WITH GIRLS MORE...
SO... HE REALLY WAS SAYING THAT STUFF BEFORE HE MET ME...
THE "PAST LIFE"
HM? OH, YEAH.
YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THEY GOT ALONG WELL.
.....!!
Please take this letter!!
THOSE GUYS REALLY SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER...

WHY DO I GET STUCK DOING THIS?!
STEAL SOME FROM THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE!
BOSS! THE PRINTER IS OUT OF INK!
LAYOUT: PERFECT
I HAVE COMPLETED THE COVER DESIGN!!
I AM PRINTING IT OUT!!
ROGER!!
FLICK-FLIP
FLIP-FLICK-FLIP
Stapling!!
HURRY!!!
GAH!!
WOW!
AT LAST...
WELL, I DIDN'T DO IT TO BE COOL.
SEE, I'VE BEEN IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS TSUBAME SINCE, LIKE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
Different years, though.
SO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SNUBBED TSUBAME FOR SOME OLDER GUY?
THAT WAS KIND OF COOL.
HAHAH
We're going to finish up over here.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU HERE SO LONG!
THIS IS ALL WE GOT TO EAT.
Too many snacks
AHHH
WHEW

↑ Note: she's drinking out of the bottle.

I HEAR HE USED TO BE THE REAL LONELY TYPE.
YOU KNOW-- HE DIDN'T GET LOVED WHEN HE NEEDED IT THE MOST.
SO THAT'S WHY..
A "THING" FOR UN-REQUITED LOVE?
HIM?
SEE, TSUBAME'S PARENTS DIED IN A CAR CRASH WHEN HE WAS REALLY YOUNG.
AND AFTER THAT, HIS GRAND-MOTHER-- ALWAYS CARING FOR HIM-- PASSED AWAY.
SINCE THEN, WELL, I GUESS HE'S BEEN PRETTY MUCH ALONE.
HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN "ACCIDENT"...
...UN-CONSCIOUSLY, HE WAS GIVING OFF THIS AURA OF HELPLESS-NESS.
I GUESS THAT MADE HIM CUTE-- LIKE A BABY.
Whatever shall I do?
If this aura were a color, it'd be pink
SO MANY GIRLS MISTOOK HIM AS SEEKING LOVE.
KYAAAH!
Such a cute boy!!
Come over here!!
I think he looked at me!!

THE ONLY PERSON I RECALL HIM EVER TRYING TO GO OUT WITH--WELL, OTHER THAN MIKE-- IS YOU.
I GUESS YOU JUST DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME FOR HIM, HUH?
AND SHE EVEN KNOWS ABOUT THE BIRTH-MARK'S
grip
OH, MAN ...
OR, AT LEAST, I REMEMBER HEARING THEM SAY THAT.
ALSO, YEAH--THEY HAVE THE SAME BIRTHMARK ON THEIR THUMBS.
TSUBAME'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY, I GUESS.
I THINK HE JUST HAS A THING FOR UNREQUITED LOVE.
...
YEAH? NOT YOUR TYPE?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
UH... YES.

Nice to meet you #2
(CONTINUED)

Alright. I'm pretty sure the size is right this time

Unfortunately, I'm always making little mistakes like this. Little mistakes with big consequences. Before I can even get started, I'm messing things up.

For example, when I wrote the serial version of this manga, I figured I would send it to the publisher by bullet-train-mail. I put the envelope containing the pages into my bike basket and headed for the station. On the way there, I almost hit into a car on a back road.

We were both going really slow, so we were okay.

S-SO SORRY !!

WHAT THE HECK !!

Anyway, I got to the train station, and noticed the envelope was gone. "Huh? Did I...drop it?!" I went back a ways, and there it was, in the middle of the road.

WITH A BIG TIRE PRINT RIGHT ON IT!!

The pages were still okay, so I just sent it like that.

I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW !!

HEY!

WAIT A SEC--

NO, IT'S...

STOMP STOMP

HMMMMM !!

THIS LOOKS A LOT LIKE *THEIR* BIRTH-MARK!

"HE DIDN'T GET LOVED WHEN HE NEEDED IT THE MOST."

"UN-REQUITED LOVE..."

So yeah. That's the kind of person who is writing this manga. Nice to meet you

ALL ALONE, HELPLESS, AND LONELY: IT'S NO WONDER HE BECAME SUCH A HEARTTHROB.

...HE SEEMED TO NEVER FIND THE KIND OF AFFECTION HE WAS LONGING FOR.

EVEN IF HE WENT OUT WITH ONE OF THOSE GIRLS...

...HMM ?

YOU'VE GOT SOME-THING ON YOUR THUMB.

DID YOU TOUCH SOME INK WHEN YOU WERE--

OH--

OH, NO...

I WONDER. THOUGH. CAN ANYBODY GET THROUGH TO HIM ANYMORE?

HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY-- YOU SAW.

AND...
...SHE COULD NEVER FORGET...
...THE LOVER SHE HAD LOST.
IT'S TRUE:
MOM LOVED MAYU...
...MORE THAN SHE LOVED ME.
KANOKO TAKES AFTER HER FATHER...
"THIS BIRTH-MARK
...IS A SIGN OF OUR OATH."
"SAYING THINGS LIKE 'WE WERE LOVERS IN THE PAST LIFE'..."
YEAH, WHATEVER.

OH...
SO...
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S SO DESPERATE.
KA-NOKO...
Daddy's going to do all the work from now on!
BE A GOOD, MATURE, STRONG GIRL; DON'T CAUSE HER ANY TROUBLE.
See you later, daddy!
SINCE YOUR MOM CAN'T WALK ANYMORE...
MAYU-CHAN'S SO PRETTY...
SHE SURE IS.
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
MOMMY, LOOK!!
I GOT A 100 ON MY TEST!!

THIS IS ALL I NEED TO SURVIVE.
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.
FORGET THE PAST.

WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL
BAND
CAFE
43TH ANNUAL

WOW
FROG
CLASS 2-1 IS DOING A FLEA MARKET
CHEAP !!
.....
WOW
Chatter
COME IN, AND LET US $$$$$$$$$CARE YOU !!
THERE'S A TALENT SHOW AT ONE...
Chatter

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LONELY.
EVERYONE IS WATCHING YOU.
BUT ME?
NOBODY EVEN NOTICES ME.

I GIVE MAYU STRENGTH.
YET, MAYU COULDN'T GO ON WITHOUT ME.
"ALL I NEED IS YOU, KANOKO..."

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER FOUR
THE SECOND ENCOUNTER

I can't see a thing without my glasses...
SUCH A BLUE SKY...
I SHOULD HAVE SKIPPED TODAY.
WAH-AHAHAH It suits you so well!!
HIMEMIYA! YOU BE OUR SIGN!! WEAR THIS MASK!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP US, RIGHT?
VOO
OOO
OOM
The perfect disguise!!
I BET KANOKO WILL BE SURPRISED!!
WOW!!
IT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!!
3-2 CAFE
M-SM-ZG
CHAPTER THREE: END

WHO THE HELL IS THIS TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA? A STUDENT HERE?
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS !!
GIRLS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS.
HE'S JUST A FRESHMAN? YOU'RE KIDDING! I WANNA MEET HIM. ♡
I'LL TAKE TWO !!
I'LL TAKE FIVE !!
YOU GET YOUR OWN CUTE GUY, LADY !!
WHERE IS THIS GUY? I WANT TO MEET HIM RIGHT NOW!!
IT SAYS HERE THAT THIS TSUBAME KID IS GOING TO BE SINGING IN THE GYMNASIUM AT ONE O'CLOCK TODAY!!
REALLY?!
WE'VE GOT TO SEE THAT !!
WOW, LOOK AT THAT LINE.
THEY ALL FANS OF TSUBAME?
JUST WOW.
WOW WOW
WONDER WHAT THEY'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT.
MAN, SHE'S HOT!
HEY, ANYONE EVER TELL YOU YOU KINDA LOOK LIKE THAT ACTRESS? MAYA-SOMETHING-OR-OTHER?
GAK
WELL, ACTUALLY--
HEY, COME ON OVER TO OUR FORTUNE-TELLING STAND!!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
EVEN THE GUYS ARE GOING NUTS OVER SOMETHING.

vol.1
KYAAAAAAAAAAA!!
TSUBAMECHI! HOW COULD HE DO SUCH A...
...HORRIBLY GORGEOUS THING ?!
THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB IS SELLING ITS NEW ANTHOLOGY, TODAY ONLY!!
NADESICO
BUY A COPY AND RECEIVE A FREE NUDE PRINT OF TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA!!

CHARACTER GLOSSARY VOLUME 1
TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA
He just got back from a nude photo shoot!! Let's give him a round of applause.
Today, we introduce Tsubame Yoshizawa !!
• BIRTHDAY: 1/1 BLOOD TYPE: A
• AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I'D MAKE HIM, YOU KNOW, REALLY COOL-LOOKING. THE MORE I DESIGNED HIM, THOUGH, THE MORE DUMB HE STARTED TO LOOK. SO HERE YOU GO!

AND... AND...WHAT IF TSUBAME SEES HER?!
HER BIRTH-MARK ...
GO HOME !!
IF HE SEES MAYU'S BIRTHMARK... OH, MAN...
WAHAHAHAHA
UM, WELL ...
WE GOTTA HURRY! LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE LINED UP ALREADY !!
LET'S GO SEE TSUBAME'S SHOW TOGETHER THIS AFTER-NOON!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY!
OUR BOOK SOLD OUT IN A FLASH!
We're in the money !!
Over here!!
YOO-HOO! KANOKO !!
YOU ENJOYING THE FESTIVAL ?
IT'S THE AU-THORS' CLUB
UM ...

I JUST THOUGHT ...I WANTED TO SEE HOW YOUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL WAS GOING.
Kanoko. I found you !!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE !!
Mayu!! What if someone notices you!!
What, did someone recognise me?
DASH
Hey, give her back!
TAP TAP TAP TAP
I...I WAS SUCH A LONER, THOUGH...
I MEAN, YOU GRADUATED FROM THIS SCHOOL, SO OF COURSE SOMEONE MIGHT NOTICE YOU!
You don't like it?
Oh, god, that HAT.
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE! AND LOOK AT THAT "HEY! I'M INCOGNITO" HAT AND SUNGLASSES!
I don't have a choice!!
WELL, IT'S TOO RISKY HERE !!00
OH, COME ON!! LET ME LOOK JUST A LITTLE LONGER !!
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU HAVE TO GO HOME NOW !!
Are you wearing a disguise, too, Kanoko?
OH, MAN. IF PEOPLE HERE KNEW ABOUT ME AND MAYU...
YOU KNOW, I USED TO HATE SCHOOL. I guess I didn't study, either ... I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY FRIENDS ...
NOW THAT I'M GRADUATED AND, UH, OUT IN THE WORLD, I GUESS I GET SENTIMENTAL ♡ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS.

No way...
MAN, I KNEW HE WAS POPULAR ...
JUST NOT THIS POPULAR !!
MAN, THEY'RE REALLY PACKED IN HERE.
I WISH WE COULD GET TO THE FRONT ...
AND NOW THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR-- NACKEY AND TSUBAME !!
...
Heh heh heh I'm such a genius !!
IT SEEMS MY MASTER-PIECE HAS SET THEIR DESIRE ON FIRE.
KYAAAAAA
WOW...
AAAAA
ARE YOU ALL READY TO ROCK?
YO! GOOD AFTER-NOON EVERY-BODY !

ARE... ARE THOSE HER...
...HER FRIENDS ?
WAH AH AH
SEE YOU, MAYU...
SHE...SHE NEVER... HAD FRIENDS LIKE THAT BEFORE...
ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HERE CAME TO SEE TSUBAME'S SHOW... ?
CHATTER
WOOHOOOOO!!
YEAH!!
CHATTER

WAGAGO
...
Hey! Look at me!
? I guess there's no reason to bother introducing Nackey at this point
BOOM
HELLO, MY DAR-LINGS.
MIND IF I MAKE YOU MELT TODAY?

KYAAAAAAAAA♥
HE'S SO COOL!
I LOVE YOU!!
KYAA-AAAA! TSUBA-MECCHI!
I WANT YOU GUYS TO MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS YOU CAN, ALL RIGHT?

HE READS THE ATMOS-PHERE...
...AND WHATEVER THE AUDIENCE WANTS...
HE GIVES IT TO THEM.
I GUESS THAT'S THE NATURAL TALENT OF AN "IDOL."
IF I WERE A TALENT AGENT, I'D SCOUT HIM JUST LIKE THAT.
GR-RRRR
...
I GUESS...
...I REALLY UNDER-ESTIMATED HIM...
I WONDER...
WHY AM I...
...BEING SO COLD TOWARD HIM?

FWOOM
BAM
KYAAAAA!!
SHOW-OFF.
Hehhehheh
SOME GUYS ARE LIKE THAT. JUST GIVE 'EM AN AUDIENCE...
Never saw him do a backflip before, though.

THEY ARE FASCINATED BY THE WORLD HE CREATES...
MESMERIZED..
...LIKE THEY'RE CAUGHT IN A HURRICANE ...

DOING ALL HE CAN TO SATISFY THE DESIRES OF THOSE AROUND HIM.
AND AT THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE IS HIM.

IS IT...
...JUST THAT HE WANTS THEM TO LOOK AT HIM?

HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE ALONE...
...SO HE DOES WHATEVER THEY WANT?
MAYBE..

NO ONE CAN REACH HIM...
HE IS AN OBJECT.
IN FRONT OF SO MANY PEOPLE, HE IS ALL ALONE.

AS IT STANDS...
...HE WILL NEVER BE COMPLETE.

SHE'S BEEN IN THERE A WHILE ..
KA-NOKO ..
YEAH!!
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW
THEY ALL SOUND SO EXCITED ABOUT SOME-THING...
Wooooooo
sniff
KANOKO'S SCHOOL FRIENDS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME AFTER ALL.
I GUESS ..
GR
AB
I'LL JUST TAKE ONE PEEK ..
YOW!
GRUNCH!

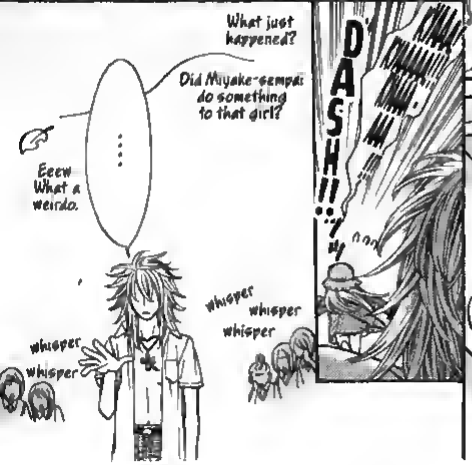
THAT'S WHY..
I GET IT--
...HE'S SEARCHING...
...SO DESPERATELY, FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN LOVE HIM.

HELP! SOMEONE PLEASE!
UH..
I--I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG..
HOW.. HOW DID HE KNOW?
WHO IS HE?!
LET GO OF ME!!
YOUR... YOUR BIRTH-MARK...
SWOOSH
HIS GRIP..
OH, NO..
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, MAYA.
HE'S HURTING ME...
OWW!
SO...

WHAT ARE YOU...
WE MEET AT LAST.
I'VE..
I'VE BEEN SEARCH-ING FOR YOU...
...MAYA YUUKI.

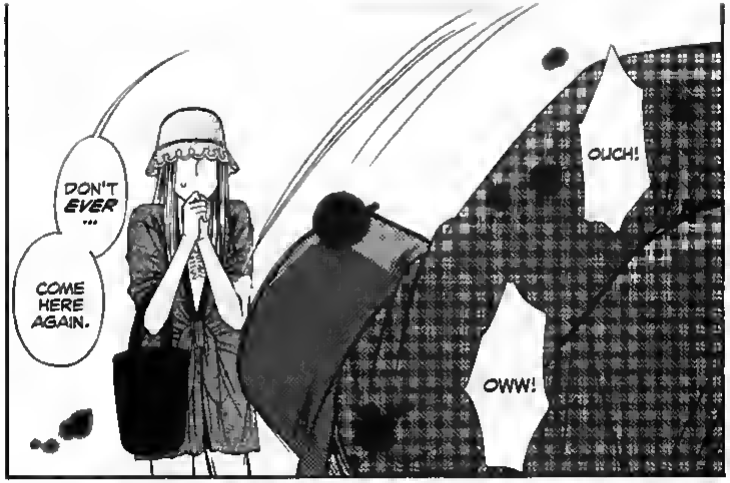
...HIME-MIYA...
...SEMPAI.

KYAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!


What just happened?
Did Miyake-sempai do something to that girl?
Eeew What a weirdo.
whisper whisper
whisper whisper
whisper whisper

DASH!!

OH.....
.....AHHH!!!


DON'T EVER...
COME HERE AGAIN.
OUCH!
OWW!

Ow Ow Ow
GAHH..

SEMPAI...

AND WHAT DID HE SAY...?
"YOUR BIRTH-MARK...?"

WHEW
GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
WAS THAT GUY A...
...A MAYA FAN?

NO WAY !!
MY HEART IS BEATING FAST.
I CAN'T BREATHE
I WANT TO SET OFF RUNNING !
WHAT IS THIS SENSATION ?
NO WAY ...

YEA
WHAT?
WE WANT MORE !!
THIS IS GONNA BE OUR LAST SONG!
AAA
HHH!
I'LL BE AME!!
AL-RIGHT THEN !!
WAIT A SEC...

...I SENSE SOME-THING.
SOMETHING SENSATIONAL.
ALL OF A SUD-DEN ...
WHAT IS THIS...

KYAAA

OH, NO.
SHOOO
OUR THUMBS...
NOT AGAIN...

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
WHAT AM I DOING?
OH, MAN
MOVE!
EXCUSE ME...
THAT... HAND
OW!
STOP--
TSUBAME!
OVER HERE!

NO...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS AGAIN
BUT-TER-FLY?
THERE. MY BUT-TER-FLY.
IF ONLY I
...LIKE THIS BUTTER-FLY..
...COULD FLY, WAVERING, AWAY.
AHHH
AHH!
NOT AGAIN!
THE WATER...
HUH?
...WAIT!
YOU MUST FOR-GIVE ME...
FOR-GIVE
YOU MUST FORGIVE ME... PLEASE

I--I FOUND HER, THOUGH !!
NO WAY! IF YOU GO BACK IN THERE, THEY'LL MAUL YOU!
I--I HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE!
DRIP DRIP
YOU... YOU...
DRIP
ANOTHER GIRL WITH THE BIRTHMARK ON HER THUMB!!
RIGHT IN THE FRONT OF THE CROWD, THERE SHE WAS--

WAIT, KANOKO-CHAN...
I--I SAW IT AGAIN, THAT STRANGE VISION
SHIVER
HEY, KA-NOKO ?
WAS IT YOU? WAS IT YOU?
NEAR THE FRONT ...?
I--I WAS IN THE BACK...
" = "
HUH?
WERE YOU STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE CROWD?

!!
I SAW HER !!
UM... IS THAT A BUTTER-FLY?
Kinda weird.
Ho ho
...UM.
TSU-BAME ?
IS THERE A REASON WE SHOULD LOOK FOR THE BIRTHMARK?
PLEASE!!
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME! BACK IN THE GYM-NASIUM !!
I MUST SEARCH FOR A GIRL WITH THE SAME BIRTHMARK ON HER THUMB!!

COULD IT BE...?
A-- ANOTHER ?
WAS IT MAYU? MAYU?!
Even took clothes
...OH
sniff
I-.
It WAS kinda cool though
HOW RECK-LESS, DIVING INTO THE CROWD LIKE THAT!!
TSU-BAME? ARE YOU... CRYING? DID YOU GET HURT?
DID SOME-ONE PULL OUT YOUR HAIR?
OH, THERE THEY ARE...
STOMP STOMP
HEY! TSUBAME! KANOKO!

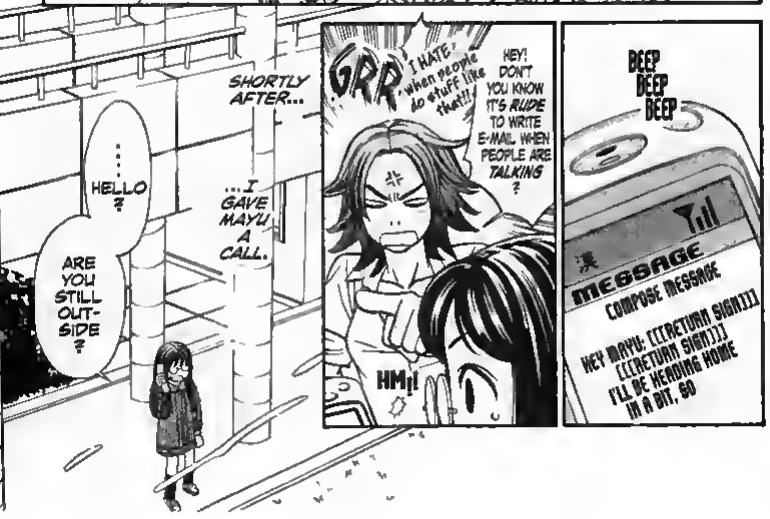
OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

CHAPTER FIVE

Butterflies, Airplanes, and Cell-phone reception

CHAPTER FOUR: END

...AND SEARCHING ALL OF THEIR THUMBS WAS TOO DIFFICULT A TASK.
...THERE WERE TOO MANY PEOPLE...
What the heck? I don't get it. Wait, is this some kind of game?
Or some new pick-up line? Hahaha
Have you seen someone with a birthmark on her thumb?
WE WENT BACK INTO THE GYMNASIUM AND LOOKED. AND YET...


SHORTLY AFTER...
HELLO?
ARE YOU STILL OUTSIDE?
...I GAVE MAYU A CALL.
GRR
I HATE when people do stuff like that!!!
HEY! DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S RUDE TO WRITE E-MAIL WHEN PEOPLE ARE TALKING?
HM;!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
MESSAGE
COMPOSE MESSAGE
HEY MAYU: [[[RETURN SIGN]]] [[[RETURN SIGN]]] I'LL BE HEADING HOME IN A BIT, SO

CHARACTER GLOSSARY

MANABU MIYAKE (MIKE)

Mike wears flashy clothes!! And I'm just going to keep drawing them flashier!! Stay tuned!!

* BIRTHDAY: 12/125 BLOOD TYPE: A

* MIKE IS VERY POPULAR WITH THE READERS. ACTUALLY, OF ALL THE CHARACTERS IN THIS MANGA, HE'S MY PERSONAL FAVORITE. HE'S ALSO THE MOST ANNOYING TO DRAW.

THE BIRTH-MARK!!
GAAHHH!!!
OH!! MI--
OH--
SWOOSH
WE GOTCHA NOW!!
EASY NOW, DESTINED LOVERBOY!!
No funny business!!
WAAAAA
They got him.
NOW I SEE
TSUBAME'S SEARCHING FOR HIS LOVER FROM THE PAST LIFE...
...AND THE SIGN OF THEIR PACT IS THAT BIRTH-MARK.
AND YOU MISTOOK KANOKO FOR THAT DESTINED LOVER. HMM...

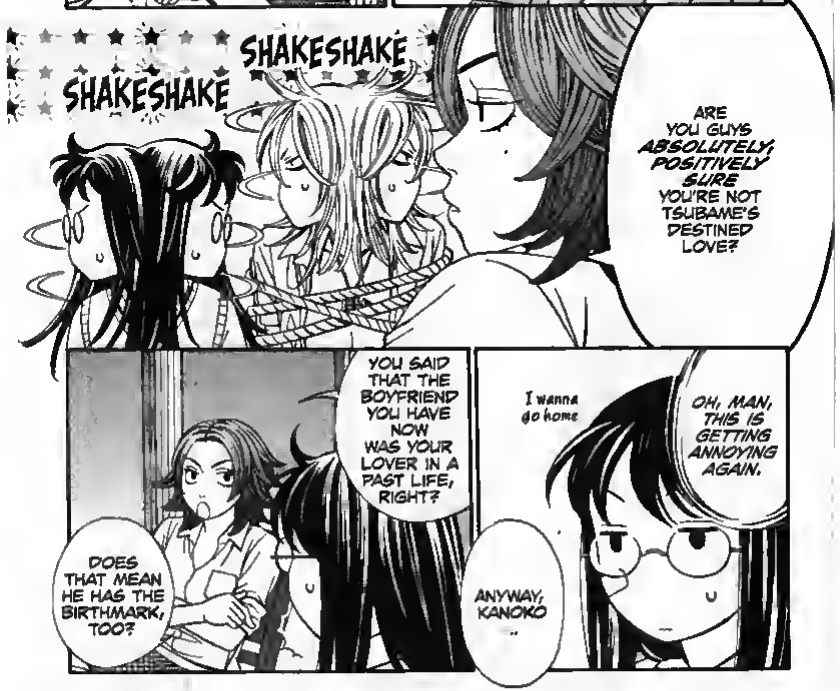
OH, HEY-- HANG ON--
I GOTTA GO. I'LL TALK TO YOU WHEN I GET HOME, ALL RIGHT?
WHEN I WAS OUT THERE, THERE WAS THIS-- WELL...
HEY, KA-NOKO!
YEAH.
NO, I WAS OUTSIDE, THOUGH...
SO, HEY, MAYU, YOU DIDN'T GO INTO THE GYMNASIUM, DID YOU?
...
SO, TSUBAME...
...TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT BIRTHMARK.
THEN... WHO THE HECK...
MAYU WASN'T THE ONE TSUBAME SAW.

If you know, the tattoos come in pairs.
SO THIS MUST MEAN THAT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE -- ASIDE FROM MIKE -- FOR TSUBAME?
TWO PAIRS, THREE TATTOOS SO FAR -- SIX PEOPLE?
Two more, then?
UH...
OH, WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO ASK THAT..
WELL
...ACTUALLY

HMMM
NOW, ABOUT THOSE "VISIONS."
I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
WELL, ACTUALLY
NUH-UH!!
MIKE'S MINE!! I SAW HIM FIRST!!
NOW, TSUBAME, MIKE ISN'T YOUR PET.
squeeze
I DON'T CARE IF THERE IS A GIRL WITH A BIRTHMARK FOR HIM SOMEWHERE -- HE'S MINE!
I'm never gonna give him up!

MISSING...
A BUTTERFLY TATTOO..
WHAT A WEIRD STORY.
Ho ho--

SO, THE ONE TSUBAME SAW IN THE GYM WAS NEITHER KANOKO NOR MIKE, HUH?
SO, A FOURTH BIRTHMARK HAS SURFACED. HMM...


SHAKESHAKE
SHAKESHAKE
ARE YOU GUYS ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY SURE YOU'RE NOT TSUBAME'S DESTINED LOVE?
YOU SAID THAT THE BOYFRIEND YOU HAVE NOW WAS YOUR LOVER IN A PAST LIFE, RIGHT?
DOES THAT MEAN HE HAS THE BIRTHMARK, TOO?
I wanna go home
OH, MAN, THIS IS GETTING ANNOYING AGAIN.
ANYWAY, KANOKO

SEEYA!!
SO!! WE'RE OFF TO SEARCH FOR THAT BIRTHMARK NOW!!
HOORAY
Actually, we just want to see what happens. write a book about it, and get rich!!
BOY, I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOUR DESTINED LOVE IS!!
YOU GUYS ARE EXCITED, TOO, RIGHT?
GUNG
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? THEY'RE GONNA HELP SEARCH FOR YOUR DESTINED LOVE, TOO!
WHATEVER I DO, THINGS GET COMPLICATED LIKE THIS.
AHHH...
...I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SEE HER BUTTERFLY.
WHATEVER HAPPENS
See you later!!
Bye-bye!!
ALL RIGHT?
SURE. SURE.
WE'RE HEADING THE SAME WAY, YOU KNOW. WALK WITH ME A LITTLE BIT.
I SAID WAIT UP, COME ON
HEY, WAIT UP!

NOW.
ABOUT THIS DESTINED LOVER--
WANT ME TO HELP YOU SEARCH FOR HER?
I'VE SEEN STORIES ON TV OR WHATEVER ABOUT PEOPLE HAVING MEMORIES OF PAST LIVES.
Like, some kid in india who found buried treasure he had no reason to know existed?
...AND YOU CAN ESTABLISH PROOF OF YOUR PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP, THAT'D BE AN AWESOME DISCOVERY.
NOW, IF YOU FIND HER, TSUBAME...
y--
YOU MEAN IT?
WHUH?
OOOOH! LET ME HELP, TOO!!
YOU HAVE MY COOPERATION AS WELL!!
TSU-BAME
YOU REALLY SHOULD--
THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERY-BODY!!
AAAAAAA
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL-- YOU'LL REALLY HELP ME SEARCH?
Hey, I drew a butterfly on my thumb, too!
I-- I...
UNTIL NOW, PEOPLE HAD ALWAYS JUST LAUGHED AT ME, OR THOUGHT I WAS SOME KINDA WEIRDO...
You were weird, but it's all right, dude! What a cheerful story!!
MANY YEARS AGO

SO, KANOKO.
YOU WERE LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
THE REASON TSUBAME SUDDENLY CAME AFTER YOU-- IT WAS THE BIRTHMARK, RIGHT?
YES.
NO!
YOU...
...YOU ACT ALL MATURE AND PLAIN.
...

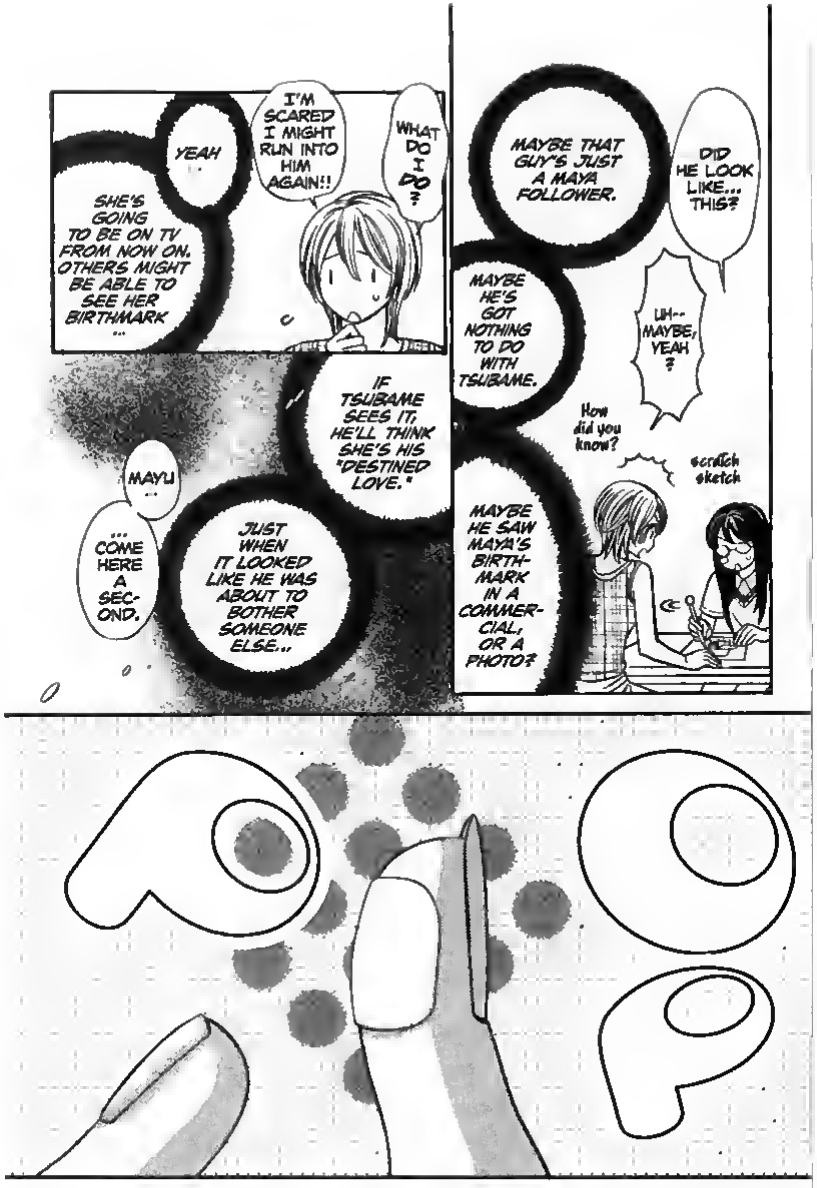
WELL, YOUR PRIDE WOULDN'T ALLOW THAT, WOULD IT?
YET I BET... I BET YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING.
REALLY GREAT.
IF A GUY COURTS YOU LIKE THAT--
...AND YOU KNOW HE WAS JUST LOOKING AT THE BIRTHMARK, NOT THE REAL YOU...
...I AM
...JUST A PLAIN OLD...
... REGULAR HUMAN BEING...

YOU'RE INTER-ESTING!!
OPEN YOUR EYES!! FACE IT!!
Get back here!!
.....WHAT A WASTE.
LIGHTEN UP!!
YEAH, SURE. WHAT-EVER.
...THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE "NORMAL" ARE THE WEIRDOES.
THEN AGAIN, IN TODAY'S WORLD...
OHO! YOU DOUBT MY OBSER-VATION SKILLS?
WELL, THEN!!
JUST SHUT UP, OKAY? YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
...
...IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR LITTLE BOYFRIEND STORY EXPOSED..
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY..

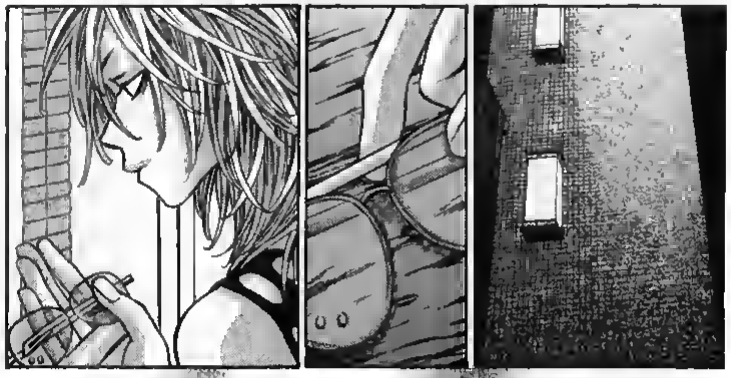
WOW. ARE YOU... OKAY?
PER-FECTLY FINE!!
GRR
WEL-COME HOME, KANO--
I'M BACK!!
SLIDE
OH, COME ON.
WHAT ROTTEN LUCK THIS YEAR HAS BEEN.
OH.
UH, THAT--
SO, WHY DON'T YOU FINISH WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO TELL ME ON THE PHONE EARLIER?
Tee-hee
WELL, UH, TODAY-- IT WAS TODAY?
YES, TODAY. A, UH, STRANGE MAN KIND OF-- FOUND ME?

SCARY!
NO WAY!!
AND WITH MORE FAME COMES EVEN MORE WEIRDOES!
OR MAYBE SOMEONE WILL SNEAK IN YOUR HOTEL WHEN YOU'RE TAKING A SHOWER AND TAKE PICTURES OF YOU. OR YOU MIGHT WAKE UP TO FIND SOMEONE SITTING ON YOUR BED!!
SOMEONE MIGHT GIVE YOU A TEDDY BEAR, AND YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S CUTE, THOUGH WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THERE'S A MICROPHONE IN ITS BELLY-BUTTON!
rumble
YES.
YOU UNDERSTAND? MAYA'S GOING TO BE GETTING VERY FAMOUS SOON.
THE BIRTHMARK?!
WHAT... WAIT, WHAT?
DID HE... SAY ANYTHING ELSE?
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION WEIRDOES, THE GUY TODAY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MY BIRTHMARK...
"THE BIRTHMARK ON YOUR THUMB..."
OH MY GOD...
I don't think he was a student at your school?
WELL, HE WAS WEARING A HAT, SO I COULDN'T REALLY SEE HIS FACE...
"I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A LONG LONG
HE SAID, "MAYA-CHAN, IT'S YOU."
WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
MIGHT IT HAVE BEEN THE GUY THAT WAS AT THE SCHOOL GATE THE OTHER DAY?

WHAT?!
BANG!!
THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OUT LIKE THAT BY YOURSELF.
KYAAA
HE JUST GRABBED MY ARM, AND--
NOTHING HAPPENED!
I MEAN BY "FOUND" ME, I MEAN...
WELL, WAIT, IT'S NOT...
TOMORROW, YOU'RE GOING TO BE FILMING FOR THAT TV SHOW.
AND IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
Gasp
NO?
WELL, UH...
WAAAAAAAAH! FORGIVE ME, PLEASE!!
IS THAT ALL THAT HAPPENED?
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ELSE?!


MAYBE THAT GUY'S JUST A MAYA FOLLOWER.
DID HE LOOK LIKE... THIS?
MAYBE HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH TSUBAME.
UH-- MAYBE, YEAH?
How did you know?
scratch sketch
MAYBE HE SAW MAYA'S BIRTH-MARK IN A COMMER-CIAL, OR A PHOTO?
YEAH
I'M SCARED I MIGHT RUN INTO HIM AGAIN!!
WHAT DO I DO?
SHE'S GOING TO BE ON TV FROM NOW ON. OTHERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE HER BIRTHMARK ...
IF TSUBAME SEES IT, HE'LL THINK SHE'S HIS "DESTINED LOVE."
MAYU ...
... COME HERE A SEC-OND.
JUST WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO BOTHER SOMEONE ELSE..

WH--
WHAT'S THIS?
I CUT A PIECE OF A BANDAGE AND PUT IT ON THERE.
MAYBE YOU'LL THINK IT'S WEIRD ...
IF ANYONE ASKS YOU, JUST SAY YOU GOT BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO ALL RIGHT?!
I WON'T LET THEM GET TO HER.
FROM NOW ON, BE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT YOUR BIRTHMARK THAN BEFORE, OKAY?
NOW, DON'T FORGET WHAT I SAID! I KNOW YOU'RE FORGET-FUL.
THIS IS OUR LITTLE SECRET OKAY?
MAYU IS THE LEVER WITH WHICH I WILL MOVE THE WORLD.
LET'S JUST KEEP THESE BIRTHMARKS TO OUR-SELVES.



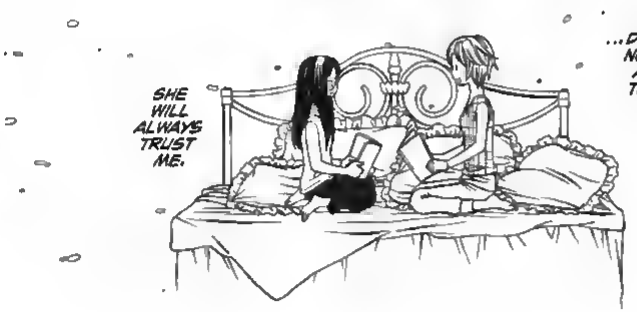
...MAYBE ...SHE'D SAY YES.

LIKE, IF I TOLD HER, "MAYU, LET'S DIE TOGETHER TOMORROW..."

I'M... I'M SO...
...MOVED THAT YOU CARE FOR ME SO MUCH, KANOKO.
ALL I DID WAS INCONVENIENCE YOU ALL DAY.
OH, NO, IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I OVERREACTED.
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK WITH THE FILMING TOMORROW.
THANKS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SAME AS SHE EVER WAS... HONEST AND GENUINE.

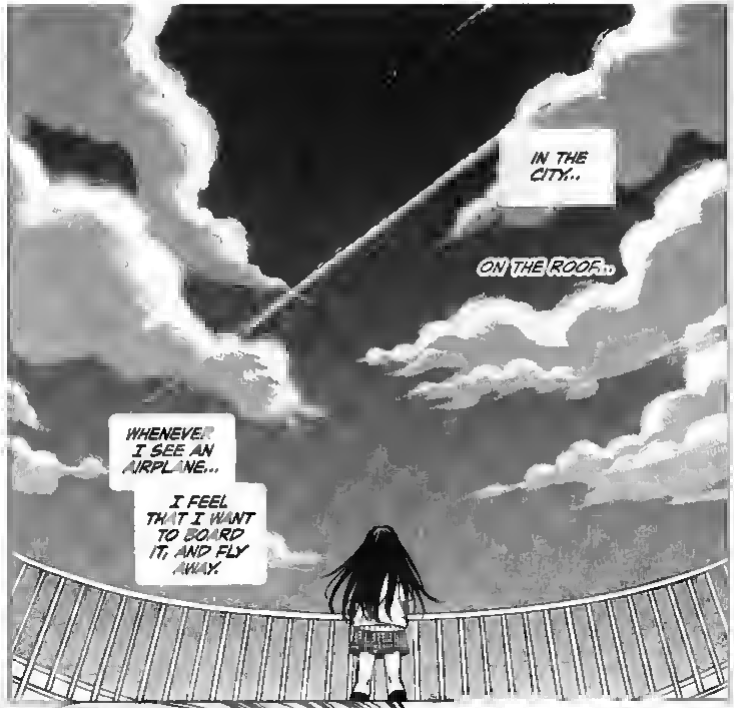
MAYU...



THE GIRL IN THE VISION..
"FORGIVE ME..."
WHY WAS SHE APOLOGIZING?
SO MUCH THAT...
...SHE WANTED TO BE A BUTTERFLY AND FLY AWAY?
A BUTTER-FLY THAT COMES FLYING BY..
...AN AIRPLANE ROARS THROUGH THE SKY..
THE INVISIBLE SIGNALS BETWEEN A CELLULAR PHONE AND THE VOID..
AT THAT MOMENT
...I FELT VAGUELY LIKE SOMEONE WAS LOOKING DEEP INTO MY SOUL..

IF I DESPAIR IN THIS WORLD..
...I WOULD DESPAIR IN THE OTHER.
MAYBE BECAUSE I AM MAYU'S SHADOW...
I CANNOT GO INTO THE LIGHT.
"WHAT A WASTE!"
"OPEN YOUR EYES!"
"ENJOY YOURSELF!!"
THIS WORLD IS SO... BARREN.
WHAT'S TO ENJOY?
I JUST DON'T GET IT SOME-TIMES.
THE ONLY THING I CAN ENJOY ...
...IS CREATING "MAYA."
flutter

CAN WE TRULY FLY?
IS THERE ANY PLACE IN THIS WORLD, RIGHT NOW...
...MORE FITTING FOR US TO BE THAN HERE?

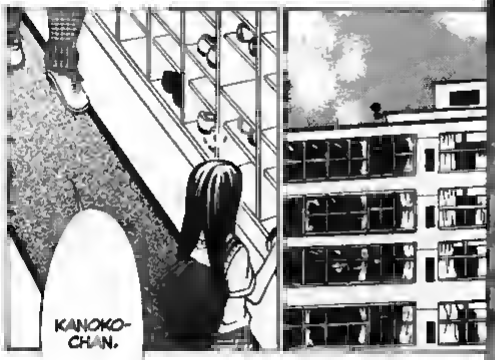

IN THE CITY...
ON THE ROOF...
WHENEVER I SEE AN AIRPLANE...
I FEEL THAT I WANT TO BOARD IT, AND FLY AWAY.

WHERE IS SHE?
THE GIRL IN THE VISION
AND WHERE DOES SHE WANT TO GO?
TO WHERE?

UM...
UH.
.....?
HUH?

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
LIKE, AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?

...WELL, A GUY SHOULDN'T DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES A GIRL'S FACE GET CUT, SO...
SO, UH, S-SORRY.
I MEAN, YOU'RE A GIRL, AND...
I WAS SO...SO FULL OF SOMETHING. IN THE MOMENT, YOU KNOW?
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF.


KANOKO-CHAN.

HEY.
GOOD MORN-ING.
HERE YOU GO.
woosh

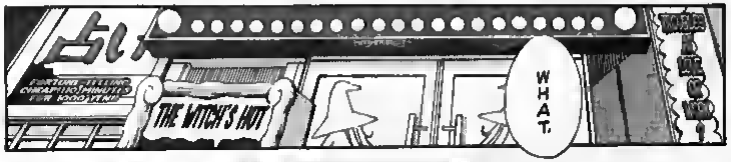
IF ONE OF US WERE TO DISAPPEAR, IT WOULD MEAN NOTHING.

AND YET..

KYOKO
Maya Mode
...I'LL DO MY BEST!!
AND THIS...
...IS MR. SHUNJI KANEKO.
I'M THE DIRECTOR FOR THE SERIES...
KOBA-YASHI.
EVERY-ONE, THIS IS OUR STAR, MAYA YUUKI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SORRY I'M LATE!
WELL, YOU'RE THE STAR.
SO COME ON, LET'S GET START-ED.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THIS ROLE ALONGSIDE YOU, MAYA.
LET'S MAKE THE BEST SERIES WE CAN.
KYOKO!
I'M QUITE PLEASED YOU CAME WITHOUT ANY GRUM-BLES.
ONE MIGHT SAY I COULDN'T REFUSE ...
WHAT?! REALLY?
IS THERE SUCH A PERSON IN THE CITY LIKE THIS?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO MEET ONE WHO IS IN TOUCH WITH THE PAST LIFE!!
FASTA
CAMERA

SHE HAS A REPUTATION FOR NEVER BEING WRONG !!
I'M GOING HOME !!
WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THIS OLD LADY ?
Really?! How do you know for sure ?!?!
YES, YES, FIRST-- YOU THERE. THE GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE A SERIAL KILLER.
IN YOUR PAST LIFE YOU WERE, YES... YOU DIED !!

To Be Continued In "OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY" Volume Two



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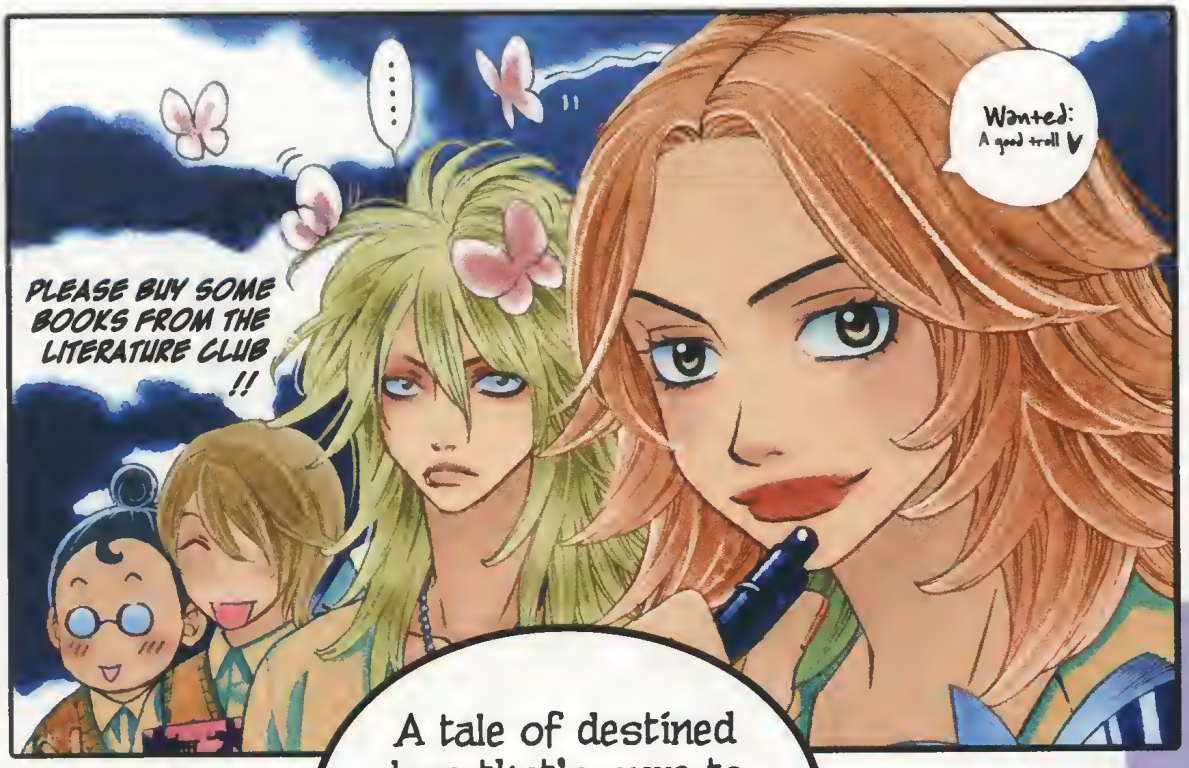

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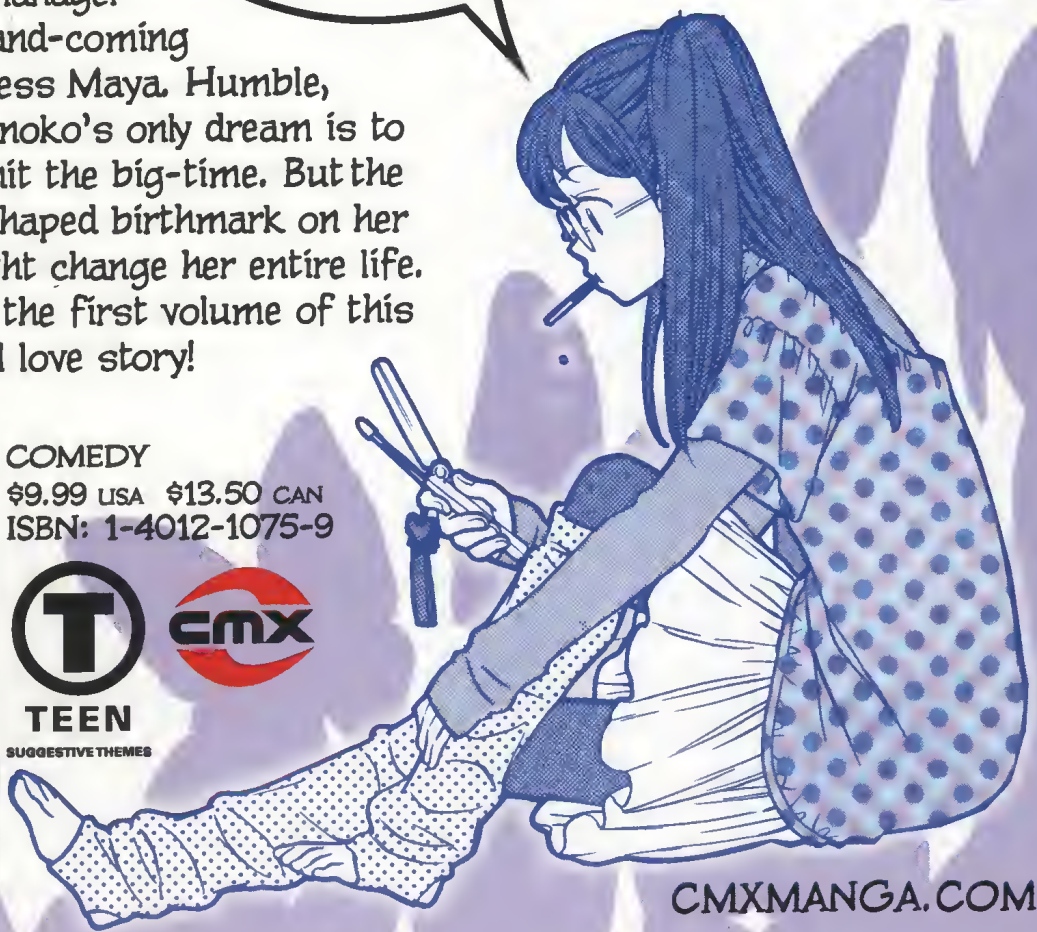

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